

## League's acting chief to relocate in Cairo

CAIRO (AP) — The Arab League's acting secretary-general takes up his post in Cairo Tuesday to start the process of bringing league headquarters back to Egypt after 11 years in Tunisia. Foreign Minister Esmat Abdul Maguid said the return of Assad Al Assad "is considered the first step towards the return of the secretariat." At a regular meeting last March in Tunis, Arab League foreign ministers agreed to the transfer but delayed the official announcement. That came in Cairo in September, after the eruption of the Gulf crisis splintered the league into countries bitterly opposed to Iraq, led by Egypt, and others not sharing the Egyptian-led view who boycotted the meeting. Chadi Klibi, the Tunisian who was the long-term secretary-general, resigned shortly before the Cairo meeting, apparently over the relocation decision. His senior assistant Assad was appointed to fill the void. Recent reports have said that Yasser Arafat, chairman of the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO), has proposed that Arab countries which were not lined up in the Egyptian-led camp should found a new Arab League.

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## Saddam: Bush closing door to talks

NEW YORK (R) — Iraqi President Saddam Hussein suggested in a television interview Monday that President George Bush was closing the door to dialogue in the Gulf crisis by comparing him to Hitler. He also denied a suggestion that Soviet envoy Yevgeny Primakov's latest meeting with the Iraqi leader in Baghdad accomplished nothing and represented the last chance for a negotiated settlement before war breaks out. Asked his reaction to Bush comparing him to Hitler, Saddam told Cable News Network (CNN) in an interview in the Iraqi capital: "But you, as a citizen of the United States, don't you think that Mr. Bush would have committed an error in that description when he is dealing — which he applied to a head of state with which he has had dealings and in which, indeed, he still has a resident embassy and with which he will still seek to conduct diplomatic dealings and political contacts?"

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## King exchanges views with Saleh

AMMAN (Petra) — His Majesty King Hussein Monday telephoned Yemeni President Ali Abdullah Saleh and exchanged views with him on the latest developments in the Gulf crisis. The two leaders discussed efforts made at the Arab and international levels to reach a political solution to the Gulf crisis and other problems in the Middle East.

## Jerusalem panel reviews moves

AMMAN (Petra) — The Royal Commission on Jerusalem Affairs held a meeting Monday under the chairmanship of Akram Zu'aiter and in the presence of the commission's secretary general, Fayez Jaber. The commission discussed resolutions adopted by the Jerusalem Committee during its recent meeting in Rabat, Morocco, under the chairmanship of King Hassan II, Israeli practices aiming at Judaizing Arab Jerusalem and other issues. The commission decided to continue its contacts with Arab establishments to counter dangers threatening Arab and Islamic existence in Jerusalem.

## Iraq encourages herbal remedies

BAGHDAD (R) — Iraq is encouraging people to use herbal remedies to overcome a shortage of imported medical drugs, health experts said Monday. Certain essential medicines have disappeared on the local market, while several hospitals have stopped conducting non-emergency operations, for lack of medical supplies. The shortage of pharmaceutical products stems from the U.N.-sanctioned trade embargo following Iraq's invasion of Kuwait Aug. 2. The Iraqi News Agency said Ministry of Health experts had approved 69 new herbal medicines and medical cures. Herbal treatment has already been practised in Iraq but the shortage of Western-type medicines prompted authorities to encourage further research on traditional natural remedies.

## Egypt arrests suspects in bus attack

CAIRO (R) — Egypt has secretly arrested several Palestinians it accuses of involvement in a February gun and grenade attack on an Israeli bus in which 11 people were killed, security sources said Monday. "Yes, we have arrested Palestinians. They were arrested some time ago," a senior state security officer told Reuters when asked about the reported detentions. The sources claimed Palestinians were behind the attack near Cairo in which nine Israelis and two Egyptians were killed. The security officer refused to say how many people were arrested but said they would stand trial.

## Iraq gives PoWs two choices

BAGHDAD (R) — Iraq has given prisoners-of-war (PoWs) returning from Iran a choice of either taking government jobs or receiving retirement benefits. Newspapers said Monday the ruling Revolutionary Command Council's decision, taken Sunday, would affect thousands of PoWs freed since Iraq and Iran made peace in August. Iran and Iraq have released a total of 75,000 Red Cross-registered PoWs in the past two months. Another 25,000 unregistered PoWs are still believed held by the two countries.

## Tunisia reports high voter turnout

TUNIS (R) — The Tunisian government said Monday that 79 per cent of registered voters took part Sunday in two parliamentary elections where the only candidates were from the ruling party. Interior Minister Abdul Hamid Escheikh said the turnout in the Ben Arous constituency, on the southern edges of the capital, was 68 per cent, while in the rural western constituency of Beja 91 per cent of voters voted. The new members of parliament are Khelifa Trabelsi in Ben Arous and Tahib Gharbi in Beja. Both are from the ruling Democratic Constitutional Rally (RCD).

# Gorbachev calls for Arab initiative to resolve Gulf crisis

Primakov briefs Saudi leaders on mission

Combined agency dispatches

RAMBOUILLET, France — Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev, saying he rejected a military solution in the Gulf crisis, called Monday for an inter-Arab meeting to help resolve the Gulf crisis.

Gorbachev told a news conference with French President Francois Mitterrand that a "political solution to an acute conflict" had to consider the Iraqi position. "The best thing is for us to deal with this man (Iraqi President Saddam Hussein). The best thing would be to have an inter-Arab meeting, some Arab mechanism... we could reach agreement more quickly that way," Gorbachev added.

The Soviet leader, ending a 24-hour visit to France, said international solidarity against Iraq's takeover of Kuwait almost three months ago was vital. "We cannot allow and should never give grounds for Iraq... to be able to think or hope that there will ever be any disharmony or weakening of decisions," he said in reference to U.N. conde-

mnation of the Aug. 2 invasion. Gorbachev made specific mention of Saudi Arabia, where more than 200,000 foreign troops aligned against Iraq have dug in, when calling for the inter-Arab conference.

"Certain countries might undertake a particular role. I am thinking of Saudi Arabia... they might take an initiative. There is an inter-Arab mechanism that needs to be brought into play now," Gorbachev added. He did not say which Arab mechanism could play a role in a peace initiative.

The Soviet leader said he has received fresh indications that "under the pressure of sanctions,

which have to be stepped up, of course, some signs are emerging that Iraq's leadership may be heeding the will of the United Nations."

"It seems to me that the Iraqis could be ready for" an Arab initiative, Gorbachev said. "If we were to have an inter-Arab meeting, this would be the quickest way to a settlement."

Mitterrand said French and Soviet positions on the Gulf were in harmony. "We will defend the same principles and the same positions in the framework of the Security Council," he said.

Gorbachev stressed the importance of maintaining a united front



Mikhail Gorbachev

against Iraq.

"We must not permit the Iraqi regime to hope there will be a division, a weakening of positions," he told reporters.

He said military options were unacceptable as a means of resolving the crisis, but insisted that Iraq comply with U.N. demands to free foreign nationals and withdraw from Kuwait.

"I think it's unacceptable to have a military solution, but President Hussein should not indulge in speculation," Gorbachev said. "We want to do step by step everything that ensures that sound logic prevails, and you can't call what they (Iraq) have done anything other than adventurism."

Gorbachev said he had received a telegram from his envoy,

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## Jordan welcomes Soviet call

AMMAN (R) — Jordan has welcomed Monday's call by Mikhail Gorbachev for an inter-Arab meeting on the Gulf crisis, described by the Soviet leader as the best chance of avoiding war. An official source in Jordan welcomed the proposal. He said "conflicting agendas" of non-Arab countries trying to solve the crisis had not helped a solution. "I think the Soviets for the past few weeks have been very much trying to understand the problem and solve it," he said. "His statement fits in with the whole Arab thinking."

# Iraq seeks Franco-Soviet 'political commitment'

From Lami K. Andoni in Baghdad

IRAQ IS willing to release all foreign nationals held as detainees against attack in return for a Soviet-French commitment that the Gulf crisis would be resolved through political means, a senior Iraqi official said Monday.

The official said this was a compromise reached between the Iraqi leadership and Soviet envoy Yevgeny Primakov after the Soviet envoy insisted on the American position demanding total and unconditional Iraqi withdrawal from Kuwait and release of all foreign nationals held in Iraq and Kuwait.

"Such a (Soviet-French)

commitment will pave the way for a serious political process and movement towards a diplomatic solution to the problem," said the official, who spoke to the Jordan Times on condition of anonymity. "If this happens, then the issue of foreign nationals will be dealt with in a different manner," the official said. When pressed whether this meant a release of all foreigners held as "guests" by the Iraqi authorities, the official said: "Once the diplomatic process gets under way there is no need for the guests to remain in Iraq or Kuwait."

A senior Arab diplomatic source said the initial position adopted by Primakov, who ar-

rived here Saturday and left for Saudi Arabia Sunday, "disappointed the Iraqis since he insisted on Iraq meeting the American demand for unconditional withdrawal from Kuwait and release of all foreigners."

However, "after extended talks, a compromise was reached and Primakov flew out with the Iraqi offer," he added. Earlier, Baghdad had called for an American undertaking not to attack in return for freedom of all foreign nationals.

According to the source, Iraq had welcomed Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev's call, issued in Paris Monday, for an Arab initiative to resolve the Gulf crisis.

## French nationals leave Iraq

PARIS (Agencies) — About 300 French citizens took off Monday night from Baghdad aboard an Iraqi Airways jetliner on a flight home to three months after the Iraqi takeover of Kuwait.

The French Foreign Ministry said the Boeing 747 departed at about 17:30 GMT and was expected to be in Paris by midnight local time (2300 GMT) if all went smoothly.

The ministry also said that French diplomats had been ordered to pull out of their embassy in Kuwait, where they had endured siege-like conditions for weeks.

The half-dozen diplomats were expected to return to Paris with the freed nationals, but there was no immediate official word as to whether they were on the plane when it flew into Baghdad from Kuwait with 57 French people aboard.

That group was joined by more than 200 waiting at the Baghdad airport.

An unknown number of the more than 300 French nationals in Iraq and Kuwait chose to remain behind, French officials said.

Daniel Bernard, the foreign ministry spokesman, confirmed that France will comply with Iraq's request to fill the plane with a cargo of medicine.

Medicine is excluded from the U.N. embargo of Iraq and Kuwait. Nonetheless, French and U.N. authorities plan to inspect the plane before it leaves Charles de Gaulle-Rosny airport.

President Francois Mitterrand cautioned against unbridled celebration as long as hundreds of

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# King: Peace possible, war will be most devastating

AMMAN (J.T.) — There is still chance for peace in the Gulf if only the parties involved are willing for dialogue and compromise to resolve the problem, His Majesty King Hussein has said.

"...I think there are signs coming out of Iraq at this time that suggest a readiness to move towards a peaceful and secure region," the King was quoted as saying in an interview published in the latest issue of Time magazine. "The only problem is that there seems to have been embargo on dialogue and readiness to compromise," the King was quoted as saying.

The King, interviewed by Dean Fisher and James Wilde of Time, also warned of massive devastation in the event of a war in the Gulf.

"The U.S. possesses the most modern weapons of war in the world. But I can't see how the Iraqis are not expecting that, and preparing, possibly, to receive the first blow and then strike back," the King said.

"I believe the losses are going to be horrendous in terms of lives; damage to the infrastructure, oil. Also, there will be other damage; the fact that there are foreign troops, even in the country that is the custodian of the holy places. There is also great agitation over the lack of progress on the Palestinian problem and the fact that the status of Jerusalem is still

unresolved. If war occurs, the damage will be felt throughout the Muslim and Arab world. What is the purpose? The destruction of Iraq? What kind of a result is that? The region would be driven towards greater extremism, and I really can't see what benefit anyone would derive."

In reply to a question, the King said:

"Weapons of mass destruction are available everywhere. If there is a resolution of the Iraq-Kuwait problem, if the world is moving towards a new world order, then the same principles should apply to the Arab-Israeli problem. Then it would also be possible and necessary to remove weapons of mass destruction in the entire region. I think there is readiness on the Arab side. But there are any guarantee that Israel might not use nuclear weapons?"

In answer to a question on Iraq's call for linking the Gulf crisis with other problems of the Middle East, the King said: "I am not suggesting that they should be addressed simultaneously, but I am suggesting that there should be readiness to resolve all these problems."

Asked why Iraq does not just withdraw from Kuwait and allow the restoration of the emiri regime and then settle the problem between Kuwait and Iraq, the King said: "And

go back in square one before the invasion? There was never a defined border, otherwise we wouldn't have had this problem in the first place. Somehow there has to be an understanding of where we end up. Also, as long as there is a threat of possible military action against Iraq by a strong hostile force, this is holding up the question of releasing what the Iraqis call guests and the rest of the world calls hostages. As long as there is a question of whether (others seek) the destruction of Iraq, this is the reason why the Iraqis are not beginning to move."

"We have always stood against the occupation of territories by war, and certainly against annexations, and this is a principle we have applied across the board. But the tragedy in this case is that it all could have been avoided had some effort been made by the parties concerned. With Arab help, to resolve the problem peacefully."

The King explained the pro-Iraqi sentiment among the young Arab generation as representing a hope to end their pain. He said: "The pain is there because of the Palestinian problem. They also see weaknesses caused by threats and challenges from within the Arab community. They see a lack

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# Palestinian strike marks 1956 Kfar Qassem massacre

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (Agencies) — Thousands of Palestinians stayed home from their jobs in Israel Monday during a general strike marking a 1956 massacre of Palestinian villagers by Israeli soldiers.

The strike came only a day after Israel lifted a four-day closure of the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip, and hundreds of Palestinians found they had been replaced in their jobs by Israelis. Meanwhile, tensions were briefly raised among Israelis after an Israeli soldier was found shot to death. But police and army sources concluded the 19-year-old Druze soldier probably committed suicide.

Last week's attacks on Israelis — which included the fatal stabbing of a woman soldier and knifing of two other women soldiers — led to the four-day blockade on Palestinians from the occupied territories entering Israel.

Leaders of the 34-month Palestinian uprising have repeatedly called for attacks on Israelis as revenge for the Al Aqsa massacre of Palestinians Oct. 8.

The dead soldier was identified

by a military spokesman as Corporal Hareb Hatham, 19, of Beit Jann village in northern Israel, which is predominantly Druze. Radio reports said Hatham's body was found at 11:30 p.m. (0930 GMT) Sunday by a passing driver near the Golani junction, about 15 kilometres north of the West Bank.

Hatham was shot twice in the chest with his Israeli-made Galil rifle, the radios said. He apparently dragged himself to the main road where he was found by a truck driver, army radio said.

The gun was found some 400 metres from the body and only one set of footprints was detected at the site, Albert Musafia, police commander of the northern district, told the radio. He said it looked like "we are talking about a suicide."

Army sources initially said there was evidence Hatham could have been killed by guerrillas, but later agreed with the suicide theory.

Monday's strike, which paralysed commercial life throughout the West Bank and Gaza Strip, was called by the Muslim fundamentalist movement Hamas to mark 34 years since the killing of

49 Israeli Arabs by soldiers in Kfar Qassem. It occurred during the 1956 Suez war in which Israel attacked Egypt in an effort to break a two-year Egyptian blockade of its southern ports. Curfews were imposed on most Arab areas in Israel.

The troops opened fire on orders to shoot curfew violators, but their Arab victims were mostly workers returning home from jobs, unaware of the restrictions. There were some vain attempts by Palestinian activists to call off Monday's strike to avoid having more Arabs fired because of prolonged absences from work.

But Arab labour leaders said the strike hurt Israel as well since its economy still depended on the work force of some 150,000 Palestinians.

Hundreds of Palestinians found Sunday they had been replaced during the four-day closure of the occupied territories.

Police, meanwhile, considered new "security" measures for the Al Aqsa area, following a probe published Friday which criticised a lack of "security" precautions that could have prevented the bloodshed.

## Waldegrave: Injustices to Palestinians must end

RABAT (Agencies) — British Foreign Office Minister William Waldegrave called Monday for injustices to Palestinians to be rectified, saying the dispute poisoned the atmosphere in the Middle East.

"One thing is clear, never again must the Palestinian issue be allowed to be forgotten. It must be settled," Waldegrave said at Rabat airport after arriving from Algeria.

"It is not a matter which should be linked to the Gulf crisis. The origins are separate. But it is a very important issue which poisons the atmosphere in the region and the injustice that continues to be done to the Palestinians must be put right," he told Reuters.

Waldegrave, starting a three-day visit to Morocco, said the Gulf crisis would be a main topic of his talks with King Hassan and government leaders.

He said Britain "greatly admires the principled stand of Moroccan policy which is very close to our own."

"We do not rule out the military option but like most people we hope there will be a peaceful solution... we wish to avoid war but we must insist that Security Council resolutions be carried out."

Israeli Foreign Minister David Levy has said Israel would pay the "political price" of linking the Gulf crisis with the Palestinian question.

"The so-called 'free world' tells us that the priority is Saddam

Hussein, to do everything so that he does not emerge conqueror of Kuwait," Levy told the French daily Le Monde.

"But at the centre of this same 'free world', certain members wish to establish a link between the Gulf crisis and the Palestinian question," said Levy, who arrived in Paris for a three-day visit Sunday.

"In other words, Israel would be paying the 'political price' of the coalition that the west has made with certain Arab countries," he said.

Israel strongly rejects the Iraqi call for addressing the Gulf-crisis together with the issue of Palestinians and the Israeli-occupied territories.

Levy said an Iraqi withdrawal from Kuwait followed by a referendum on Kuwait's future would be meaningless.

Governments that consider such a formula "know perfectly well that a good part of the population has fled, many others have been expelled and that the demographic balance has been destroyed," he told Le Monde.

"What do these games mean?" Levy arrived for talks with French officials expected to be dominated by the Gulf crisis and the Palestinian issue. France has repeatedly criticised Israel's treatment of Palestinians in the occupied territories, and favours settling the Arab-Israeli conflict through an international conference, a strategy Israel opposes.

Levy's visit was scheduled before Iraq's takeover of Kuwait.

## No more rationing of fuel in Iraq

BAGHDAD (Agencies) — Thousands of motorists took advantage Monday of Iraqi President Saddam Hussein's decision Sunday to scrap petrol rationing by jamming garages.

The rush started immediately after Iraqi television interrupted its programmes late Sunday to announce the decision and Saddam's seeking of his oil minister, Issam Abdul Rahim Al Chalabi.

The rationing started six days ago after Chalabi said Iraq was short of chemical additives needed for refining crude oil into petrol. It was seen outside Iraq as the first signal that sanctions were beginning to bite.

Iraq said Sunday the rationing was introduced on the basis of false information. It said stocks of imported additives were twice as great as earlier believed and they could also be manufactured locally.

Namir Al Mufti, head of the state distribution firm, said his company had started supplying petrol to garages round-the-clock. He urged drivers to stop rushing to fill up.

Saddam's son-in-law Hussein Kamel, who already controls Iraq's military industries, was appointed oil minister.

ملكا عبد الرحمن



## GCC talks of peace but no compromise

RIYADH (Agencies) — Gulf countries planned new peace moves Monday to try to solve the Gulf crisis but warned Iraq not to expect any compromise.

"There will be no concessions nor solutions outside the U.N. Security Council resolutions in order not to give the aggressor any benefit," a final communiqué said after two days of talks by Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) foreign ministers.

Omani Foreign Minister Youssef Ben Alawi Ben Abdullah said, however, that diplomacy was not dead.

"Steps are to be taken in the coming weeks. These steps are considered part of diplomatic activity," he told reporters without elaborating.

The communiqué said Iraq's refusal to withdraw from Kuwait could lead to a devastating war that would cost the Iraqi people

dearly.

Saudi Foreign Minister Prince Saud Al Faisal left the meeting early for talks with Soviet envoy Yevgeny Primakov who flew to Jeddah.

"(Primakov) asked to come, so let's see what he has to say," the prince told reporters.

Ben Alawi appeared to retain some hope that Primakov's mission was not a total failure.

"I don't know what is in the pocket of Mr. Primakov," he said.

Oman holds the rotating presidency of the GCC which also groups Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, Qatar, Bahrain and the United Arab Emirates.

The foreign ministers held a second, unscheduled round of talks Monday morning at its marble headquarters in the Saudi capital.

Ben Alawi said Sunday real

diplomacy had just started in the Gulf crisis. But the group's Kuwaiti secretary-general, Abdullah Bishara, said diplomacy was in its last chapter and the region would be close to inferno in a week.

He stressed that the GCC continues to demand an "unconditional, full, total and complete" pullout of Iraqi troops from Kuwait.

**Craig in Bahrain**

Britain's Chief of Defence Staff Sir David Craig arrived in Bahrain Monday as part of a regional tour, the Gulf News Agency (GNA) said.

A British embassy spokesman said Craig, who flew in from Riyadh, would visit British forces on the island and discuss the Gulf crisis with senior Bahraini officials. He is due to leave for the

United Arab Emirates Tuesday.

Britain has fighter-bombers in Saudi Arabia, Oman and Bahrain. Around 12,000 British servicemen are on their way to or in the Gulf as part of the multinational force gathered to confront Iraq.

Craig told a news conference before leaving Saudi Arabia he was optimistic the Gulf crisis could be resolved peacefully, but that if war started the multinational force would defeat Iraq.

"If we have to go to war it will be because we are quite confident that we can," he said.

He added he was "absolutely happy" with the chain of command, which puts British troops under the tactical control of U.S. Gulf Commander-in-Chief General Norman Schwarzkopf.

"We've made very good arrangements with our American friends," he said.

## PLO says Israeli report into killings is whitewash

TUNIS (Agencies) — The Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) has rejected the Israeli inquiry into the Oct. 8 massacre of Palestinians in occupied Jerusalem as an attempt at a whitewash.

"A biased Israeli commission, hastily thrown together by the Shamir government...has now tried to whitewash this latest massacre," Bassam Abu Sharif, political adviser to PLO Chairman Yasser Arafat, said in a statement Sunday night.

"The Israeli commission totally ignored that Israeli police used automatic weapons to gun down helpless, fleeing Palestinian civilians and shot doctors and other medical personnel...there is incontrovertible evidence of these events," he said.

"For Israel to seriously urge that it can investigate itself is the same as letting the fox judge the behaviour of his fellow foxes in the chicken coop."

The commission, headed by former intelligence chief Zvi Zamir, said police were justified

in opening fire at Arabs in Jerusalem on Oct. 8. But it criticised police commanders for not anticipating and preventing the violence.

Israel's cabinet has endorsed the report.

The PLO tried to obtain a U.N. Security Council mission of inquiry into the killings. Israel refused to receive the mission from the U.N. secretariat which the council finally approved.

Abu Sharif repeated demands for U.N. protection for Palestinians against Israeli occupation forces in the West Bank and Gaza and again accused Washington of double standards.

"As Israel tells the United Nations and the world to go to hell — that it will massacre whenever it chooses — the United States sends \$700 million to the Shamir government to buy more guns and bullets to murder more Arabs," he said.

"Israeli massacres continue to escalate, and even at this moment the Shamir government laughs in the face of the U.N."

## Israel moves to prosecute Miari

TEL AVIV (AP) — The Israeli parliament's house committee voted Monday to strip an Israeli Arab legislator of his immunity so he can be prosecuted for meeting Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) officials in violation of an Israeli law.

The legislator, Mohammad Miari, of the one-seat leftist Progressive Movement for Peace party, called the decision a "lynching." He said he may appeal to the supreme court.

The committee decision, approved 13-6 with two abstentions, stands a good chance of winning final approval by the 120-member parliament later this week.

Several other legislators have been stripped of their parliamentary immunity in the past, usually to allow prosecution on corruption charges.

Miari, 50, is accused of violating a 1986 law that bars contact with "terrorist" groups.

At issue is Miari's appearance with PLO officials at a February 1988 news conference in Athens. The Athens meeting was part of the PLO's plan to send a ship with expelled Palestinians aboard to Israel and the occupied territories.

The plan was scuttled by an underwater explosion that blew a hole in the hull of the ship.

Miari, born in a village near Acre that was destroyed in the 1948 war, said the committee decision was a "dis honour to Israeli democracy."

"My immunity is not given me by legislators but by the masses who elected me for my message of seeking peace and a just solution by establishing a Palestinian state alongside Israel," Miari added.

Committee member Hagai Merom of the left-of-centre Labour Party defended the vote by saying, "for me the PLO is the enemy and when Miari cooperates with the PLO then he becomes my enemy."

Israel's supreme court struck down an earlier attempt to partially lift Miari's immunity in 1986 for meeting PLO leaders.

The last Israeli convicted of violating the "anti-terror" law was peace activist Abie Nathan who was released February after serving four months in jail for meeting PLO leader Yasser Arafat in Tunis. Nathan is being tried again following another meeting with Arafat earlier this year.

## Thatcher wants Iraq to scrap non-convention arms

LONDON (AP) — Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher said Monday that Iraq must give up its chemical, biological and nuclear weapons or face long-term economic sanctions.

Even if Iraq withdraw troops from Kuwait, sanctions might have to continue to prevent it from using the weapons, Thatcher said.

"We shall have to consider how to deal with the chemical weapons, biological weapons and nuclear weapons which Iraq has so that they could never be used. That we'd have to do through the United Nations," she said in a television interview.

"It is possible that we could keep on the sanctions until we have settled the matter, otherwise it is quite possible that we shall be back in precisely the same position within a few years," Thatcher said.

er said.

She insisted that an Iraqi withdrawal from Kuwait is the only way the Gulf crisis can be solved and reiterated her readiness to use military force.

"It is not a decision I ever welcome, but you do not appease an aggressor, otherwise, as Winston Churchill said, there is no end to the humiliation you may have to endure," she said.

The prime minister said the "legitimate" government of Kuwait must be restored and compensation paid for the damage done to its people and property by Iraq.

Foreign Secretary Douglas Hurd said Friday Britain wanted a peaceful solution to the Gulf crisis but stressed force would be used unless Iraqi troops withdrew from Kuwait.

## U.S. shifting support in effort to end Afghan war

WASHINGTON (AP) — The United States is adopting a new tactic in Afghanistan, reflecting a determination to end one of its last proxy wars against the Soviet Union.

Officials and experts say the United States has shifted support away from leaders of the Afghan exile community in Pakistan to the rebel commanders inside Afghanistan who are fighting the Soviet-armed government.

U.S. officials hope the rebel commanders can break the stalemate in the fighting and clear the way to a peace agreement with Moscow and the pro-Soviet in Kabul.

The rebels, armed by the United States and Saudi Arabia, have failed to fulfill predictions they would defeat the Kabul government after it lost the support of the Soviet troops, who invaded Afghanistan in 1979 and went home 20 months ago.

But the commanders recently set up a new council, and earlier this month 40 commanders from around Afghanistan met to coordinate an offensive against provincial capitals.

"For the first time since the Soviets withdrew, the Mujahideen are pulling together," said one U.S. official.

Both the United States and the Soviet Union want out of Afghanistan, just as they are trying to extricate themselves from supporting rival factions in the protracted civil wars in Cambodia and Angola.

"The United States has made a decision at the highest levels that we make a deal with the Soviets and get out," said Barnett Rubin, an Afghanistan expert at Columbia University.

Soviet and U.S. officials say they are near agreement on Afghanistan but they still differ over what role, if any, Soviet-installed president Najibullah will play in an interim government.

Secretary of State James Baker and Soviet Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze are scheduled to hold more talks next month.

Initially, the United States had high hopes for a seven-faction Afghan interim government set up in Pakistan last year to oversee rebel operations against Kabul and prepare for a transition to democratic rule.

But the administration was forced to re-evaluate due to continued fighting, divisions among the factions, U.S. disagreements with Pakistan, and growing pressure from Congress to cut aid to the rebels.

The administration now is pinning its hopes on the newly organized council of guerrilla commanders to put military pressure on the Kabul government and strengthen the U.S. position at the bargaining table.

"There has definitely been a tilt toward dealing directly with the commanders," said Zalmay Khalilzad, a frequent adviser to the State Department.

## Saddam to meet Nakasone

TOKYO (R) — Former Japanese Premier Yasuhiro Nakasone said Monday he had been assured he would meet Iraqi President Saddam Hussein when he visits Baghdad shortly, perhaps before the end of this week.

Nakasone, who will be accompanied by a delegation from Japan's ruling Liberal Democratic Party (LDP), was speaking in Tokyo after meeting the Iraqi ambassador who banded him an invitation to go to Baghdad on a peace mission.

"I'd like to have full talks (with Saddam) on ways of reaching a peaceful settlement of the Gulf crisis," Nakasone said.

Party officials said Nakasone and the LDP group planned to fly to Baghdad around Nov. 1.

Senior LDP official Takayuki Sato, who will travel with Nakasone, told colleagues the main purpose of the visit was to talk with Japanese nationals prevented from leaving Iraq.

Sato, the LDP deputy secretary-general, said they would take clothing, medicine and other goods for Japanese and other foreign nationals trapped since Iraq's Aug. 2 invasion of Kuwait.

There are 351 Japanese detained in Iraq. Of them 137 men have been moved to strategic installations as deterrents against attack by the U.S.-led multinational force, according to the Foreign Ministry.

An official at Nakasone's office told reporters: "We don't know if Nakasone can meet the 'hostages'...all that is set is that he will meet President Hussein."

While LDP delegates would be guests of Iraq's ruling Baath Party, an LDP official said Nakasone would travel as a party adviser on the invitation of the Iraqi Organisation of Friendship, Peace and Solidarity.

Japan has pledged \$4 billion as a contribution to the costs of the multinational forces confronting Iraqi troops in Kuwait, and to help frontline states hit by the economic blockade of Iraq.

Following U.S. pressure, the Japanese government is seeking parliamentary approval for a plan to send Japanese troops to the Gulf for non-combat duties.

## 2 Japanese stage hunger strike against Gulf plan

TOKYO (R) — Two Japanese defied police to begin a hunger strike outside the Defence Agency in Tokyo Monday to protest against plans to send troops overseas for the first time since World War II.

"We will continue the strike until the bill to send troops abroad is withdrawn or defeated," said one of the hunger strikers, 63-year-old Koji Izawa.

He and his companion, 53-year-old woman activist Michiko Yoshida, surrounded by 30 supporters, sat beside the main gate of the Defence Agency headquarters in central Tokyo.

About 50 police and Defence Agency officials ordered them in vain to leave.

One police officer yelled through a loud speaker: "Go away you are blocking the traffic."

A defence official pulled down a banner which said: "We are on hunger strike. We stand firm against sending self-defence forces abroad."

This month the ruling Liberal Democratic Party submitted to parliament a bill allowing up to

2,000 personnel, including members of the self-defence forces, to be sent to the Gulf.

They would play a non-combat, support role for the multinational forces in Saudi Arabia confronting Iraq.

"The bill is designed to pave the way for a revival of militarism Japan had 45 years ago," said Yoshida, whose father was killed during the war.

But a Defence Agency official responded: "Japan should send its troops to the Gulf even if it requires a change in the U.S.-imposed constitution. The United States imposed the constitution to weaken Japan."

The constitution bans Japan from using war to settle diplomatic conflicts.

More than 1,000 people demonstrated against the bill on Sunday in the southern city of Miyazaki.

"No doctors needed"

A Japanese medical team sent to the Gulf amid intense debate over Japan's role there has found its services aren't needed by U.S.-led multinational forces, members said Monday.

## Turkey names Ozal nephew as new defence minister

ANKARA (R) — President Turgut Ozal's nephew, Husnu Dogan, was named Turkey's new defence minister Monday to succeed Sefa Giray who resigned after inter-cabinet rifts.

State-run radio said Dogan, an engineer-turned-politician, was appointed by Prime Minister Yildirim Akbulut following Giray's resignation Oct. 18.

Dogan, 46, was a state minister dealing mainly with the economy in Akbulut's cabinet. He was agriculture minister from 1983 to 1987.

Dogan's appointment is likely to give Ozal a firmer grip on defence affairs, especially during the Gulf crisis.

Ozal masterminded NATO-member Turkey's response to the crisis, severing all trade with Iraq in line with the U.N. embargo and cutting two major Iraqi oil export pipelines to the Mediterranean across southern Turkey.

Six days before Giray quit, Foreign Minister Ali Bozer resigned. Both men, one-time Ozal loyalists from the dominant liberal wing of the ruling Motherland Party, stepped down after an apparent power struggle with

nationalists and conservatives.

The appointment of Dogan, from the party's conservative wing is seen as a setback for the liberals in the 28-member cabinet, where they now have 10 seats.

Ozal moved quickly last week to stem any further resignation threats among liberal cabinet members, who have been frustrated by an apparent right-wing shift in policies and weak leadership.

Ozal founded Motherland in 1983 after years of army rule and led it until his controversial election as president by parliament 12 months ago. Newspapers said he had lengthy talks with Mesut Yilmaz, leader of the liberal wing, last week.

Yilmaz, who quit as foreign minister in February after inter-cabinet differences, has said he will challenge Akbulut for leadership of Motherland at a party congress in January. The party leader traditionally becomes prime minister.

Motherland has 276 of the 450 seats in the single-chamber parliament. It was returned for a new five-year term in November 1987.

## MIDDLE EAST NEWS IN BRIEF

## UAE to lose money from long crisis

ABU DHABI (R) — The United Arab Emirates (UAE) will lose money if the Gulf crisis drags on despite extra revenue from higher oil prices, the central bank governor said. Abdul Malik Al Hamar said Sunday night that oil revenue would soar 35 per cent this year to 50 billion dirhams (\$13.6 billion) from 37 billion (\$10 billion) in 1989. But the UAE's funding for the multinational force in the Gulf, its own defence needs and aid to countries hit by the Gulf crisis would offset the extra income, Hamar said in a lecture. He gave no figures for UAE spending, but said U.S. estimates put defence spending and funding for the multinational force by the six Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) states at \$18 billion per year. The GCC groups Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, The UAE, Bahrain, Oman and Qatar. Oil prices are around \$33 per barrel, against \$20 before Iraq's invasion of Kuwait. The UAE, to help make up lost exports by Iraq and Kuwait, boosted output to around 2.2 million bpd this month from around 1.6 in August. Hamar said seven billion dirhams (\$1.9 billion) were transferred out of the UAE in a billion dirhams in the days after the invasion. "If there is a war I expect transfer of funds to be at that level per month," he added.

## Irish lawmakers reject warning

DUBLIN (AP) — An opposition lawmaker said Monday he was determined to go ahead with a visit to Iraq, but two others who planned to make the trip were not saying how they would respond to pressure from the government. There are 225 Irish citizens known to be detained in Iraq. Leaders of European Community (EC) nations pledged themselves at their weekend summit in Rome to discourage such contacts with the Iraqi government. "My obligation now, as a result of this declaration which is a good and strong one, is the responsibility to discourage others from going to Iraq to negotiate the release of the hostages," Prime Minister Charles Haughey said Sunday. Michael D. Higgins, a Labour Party legislator from Galway, said he intended to depart for Iraq Thursday as planned. "I am going as an independent parliamentarian in response to a request from the Gulf Relatives Support Committee," Higgins said. Two of his colleagues, however, were non-committal. Paul Bradford of Fine Gael, the main opposition party, said the group would have to seriously consider any request from Haughey to call off the trip. David Andrews of the government Fianna Fail Party declined to discuss the situation. The reports gave other details.

## Israeli officer detained on suspicion of fraud

TEL AVIV (AP) — Military police detained a high-ranking air force officer suspected of fraud and bribery in connection with the purchase of weapons and other equipment in the U.S., Israel Television reported. The officer, identified as Brigadier-General Ami Dotan, is the highest ranking army officer to be detained on such charges in recent years, the television said. The report said Dotan's detention follows a secret investigation of several months conducted by Israeli police and military investigators. The radio said Dotan was suspected of committing these crimes while serving with a Defence Ministry delegation in New York two years ago. The reports gave other details.

## 4 killed in clash in southeast Turkey

ANKARA (R) — Three Kurdish rebels and a para-military gendarme were killed Sunday in a clash between rebels and Turkish security forces in southeastern Turkey, the semi-official Anatolian news agency said Monday. The clash was near the town of Lice, in Diyarbakir province, 800 kilometres southeast of Ankara. More than 2,600 people have been killed since the "autonomy-seeking" Kurdish Workers Party (PKK) launched an independence campaign in mid-1984.

## Egypt claims capture of Iraqi-run group

CAIRO (R) — Egypt said it has captured several Palestinian sabotage squads, including one that allegedly received instructions from Iraq. Interior Minister Abdul Halim Musa was quoted by the state-owned Al Ahran newspaper Monday as telling a cabinet meeting the groups had infiltrated Egypt from several border points and had been carrying weapons, ammunition and explosives. One of the groups was run by Baghdad and was instructed to contact Egyptian extremists to help them stage attacks inside the country, the paper said Musa told the Sunday cabinet meeting. The Palestinians were carrying plans for attacking important figures in the country or had instructions to make contact and cooperate with Egyptian extremists, the paper reported him as saying. Al Ahran did not indicate if any of the groups were involved in the Oct. 12 murder of Parliamentary Speaker Rifaat Mahjoub. In a dawn raid Saturday Egypt arrested a group of fundamentalists it said had carried out the assassination and on Sunday security sources said 300 others had been detained for questioning. The Interior Ministry said some of the fundamentalists had received foreign support.

## Gulf crisis has cost Soviets \$10 billion

LONDON (R) — Foreign Trade Minister Konstantin Katushev said Sunday the Gulf crisis had cost the Soviet Union \$10 billion, TASS news agency reported. The Gulf crisis has had "a most negative effect" on the Soviet economy which has sustained direct and indirect losses of about \$10 billion, it quoted him as saying on a visit to Saudi Arabia. TASS, monitored by the British Broadcasting Corporation, said the Soviet Union and Saudi Arabia had agreed to give each other most favoured nation trading status as part of agreements to develop bilateral trade. Katushev said a Soviet trade mission would be set up in Saudi Arabia.

## JORDAN TIMES DAILY GUIDE AND CALENDAR

## JORDAN TELEVISION

Tel: 773111-19

PROGRAMME ONE	
15:30	Koran
15:40	Programme review
15:45	Children programmes
16:00	News Summary
16:10	Local programme
16:45	Programme review
20:05	News in Arabic
20:30	Arabic review
21:30	Programme review
21:40	Local programme
23:00	News summary in Arabic

## PROGRAMME TWO

18:00 Scientific || 18:10 | L'ecole des fans |
19:00	News in French
19:15	Aujourd'hui en Jordanie
19:30	News in Arabic
20:30	News in Arabic
20:30	Documentary: Ivory Coast
21:30	French film
22:00	News in English
22:30	French film continued

## PRAYER TIMES

04:28	Fair
05:46	5
12:19	Umm
14:25	Asr
16:53	Maghreb
18:11	Lha

## CHURCHES

St. Mary of Nazareth Church, Swetish	Tel. 810740
Assembly of God Church, Tel.	632785, 685326
St. Joseph Church Tel.	624590
Church of the Annunciation Tel.	637440
De la Salle Church Tel.	661757
Terranova Church Tel.	622366
Church of the Annunciation Tel.	623541
Anglican Church Tel.	623583, Tel. 628543
Armenian Catholic Church Tel.	771331
Armenian Orthodox Church Tel.	775261
St. Epiroan Church Tel.	771757
Armenian International Church Tel.	685326
Evangelical Lutheran Church Tel.	811285
The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints Tel.	815817, 654932

## WEATHER

Bulletin supplied by the Department of Meteorology.

A rise in temperature will occur and winds will be southeasterly moderate to fresh, causing dust in desert areas. In Agaba, it will be dusty with

## USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS

NIGHT DUTY

AMMAN:

Dr. Salman Daboul

Dr. Khalil Abdul Qader

Dr. Issam Ba'ak

Dr. Mohammad Sawwa

Firas pharmacy

Ferdows pharmacy

Al Asma pharmacy

Nahrain pharmacy

Al Salam pharmacy

Yacoub pharmacy

Shamsi pharmacy

776751

773992

679666

732056

661912

778336

637055

626572

636730

644945

637660

northerly moderate to fresh wind and wavy sea.

Min./max. temp.

Amman

Agaba

Deserts

Jordan Valley

15/28

21/34

13/31

22/54

Yesterday's high temperature: Amman 25, Agaba 32. Humidity readings: Amman 36 per cent, Agaba 19 per cent.

DRBD:

Dr. Ayman Abdul Halil

Al Shura pharmacy

685238

ZARQA:





Her Royal Highness Princess Basma Monday visits Eldoon social services centre (Petra photo)

## Princess Basma visits social services centre

IRBID (J.T.) — Her Royal Highness Princess Basma Monday visited a social services centre set up at Eldoon in the Irbid Governorate and was briefed on the progress of work and the programmes prepared for the trainees and the various installations needed for the centre's operations.

The centre, which is to join 25 other similar centres operated by the Queen Alia Social Welfare Fund (QAF) in the Kingdom is also being prepared to serve as a model institution training women in the field of child care in the Irbid Governorate, according to QAF's officials.

They said that the centre, to open soon, would accommodate 90 children to be seated in three kindergarten classes in addition to a number of children, aged seven to 13, who will have special courses on ways to develop their skills and talents.

In addition, the new centre will run programmes designed to de-

velop skills of local women, offering them vocational training, cultural, social and health courses designed to help build sound bases for family life specially in the rural regions of Jordan.

QAF has already extended technical and financial assistance to many child care programmes in rural and bedouin areas in Jordan as well as in needy urban locations. Through specialised staff, QAF started kindergartens and children's clubs and now runs courses for women in pre-natal care breastfeeding and early childhood care, emphasising on ways to prevent disabling illnesses.

Women taking courses in the centre will also be trained in farming activities to help national effort to ensure food security for the country and to help raise the family standard of living.

The Princess, who is chairperson of the QAF's board of trustees, was welcomed at the site by Irbid Governor Jawdat Seboul

who paid tribute to QAF and Princess Basma for their contributions to the local communities.

Seboul also briefed the Princess on various aspects of the centre and on the way the local population will benefit from its services.

QAF specialists, present during the visit, spoke in detail about QAF's activities and programmes; they said that QAF plans to open a total of 50 centres for social services, especially in the rural areas and poor districts of the country.

Established in 1977, QAF is a non-profit private national organisation supporting voluntary work and promoting social development in urban, rural and semi-arid desert regions in Jordan.

The Eldoon centre, according to the specialists, will be used as a model centre to train personnel on voluntary and social development programmes.

## New coalition hopes to promote parliamentary life

AMMAN (J.T.) — The newly formed 42 member parliamentary coalition is based on all embracing programmes aiming at promoting parliamentary life in the country, according to Atif Betoush, member of the independent Islamic Bloc which is part of the coalition.

Betoush, who has nominated himself as a candidate for the Parliament speakership, said he hoped the new coalition would be supported by all public sectors since "it will follow a balanced pattern to serve all factions."

The birth of the so-called Arab-Islamic parliamentary coalition was announced by Deputy Issa Reimouni who said that it will comprise 22 deputies from the Islamic Bloc, eight from the independent Muslim group, seven liberals and five nationalists.

According to Reimouni, the coalition could grow to include 46 members, but consultations among the deputies are underway and the results are not known yet.

House Speaker Suleiman Arar said that major blocs and coalitions in Parliament would have their influence on the various resolutions. "The big groups are bound to have an effect on reaching speedy resolutions on

various issues," Arar said.

Arar, who is running for a second term, said that the House, in its second session due to open on Nov. 17, would witness further achievements.

"Should I be re-elected as House speaker, I will do all in my power to provide better services and offices for the deputies in Parliament, depending on the budget and the available financial means," said Arar.

Deputy Fawzi Tuwaimen told the Jordan News Agency, Petra, that the new coalition aimed at raising the standard of parliamentary life and effectiveness, and it hoped to unify various factions. "Unity of will and action inside Parliament will have its positive and favourable impact on the legislations," he said.

He said that the new coalition aimed at achieving a broader consensus among the deputies on various topics and at fulfilling the aspirations of the electorate.

Meanwhile, it was announced Monday that the National Bloc in Parliament would hold a meeting Wednesday to discuss nominating a candidate for the speakership post. The Liberal Bloc has scheduled a similar meeting Wednesday.



His Majesty King Hussein Monday receives the new Papal nuncio, Andrea di Montezemolo (Petra photo)

## King receives Papal message from new Apostolic delegate

AMMAN (J.T.) — His Majesty King Hussein Monday received a message from His Holiness Pope John Paul II accrediting a new Apostolic delegate to the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan.

The message was delivered to the King at the Royal Court by the new delegate Andrea di Montezemolo who arrived in Amman Friday on a week-long visit to Jordan.

King Hussein welcomed the delegate to Jordan and wished him success in his noble mission, according to the Jordan News Agency, Petra.

The new delegate will now serve as the Vatican ambassador to Jordan and Palestine.

Di Montezemolo Saturday re-

ceived members of a delegation who will soon be visiting the Vatican for a meeting with the Pope to discuss Middle East issues, difficulties facing Jordan as a result of the Gulf crisis and the situation in the occupied Arab territories.

Members of the delegation, which is still being formed, told the Papal envoy that the Pope would be urged to intervene and to provide help to Jordan, which is facing difficulties and political as well as economic pressures in view of its national state.

"The Arab people in general realise that the Vatican's position has not changed since 1947 with regard to Jerusalem and Palestine and therefore the Pope will be

approached to help provide protection to the people of Palestine and enable them to exercise their rights freely," members of the delegation said at a meeting with the newly appointed Apostolic delegate in Amman Saturday.

They said that the delegation to visit Rome will comprise members of both houses of parliament, heads of universities, mayors, university professors, labour federation members, women groups, heads of tribes and intellectuals as well as heads of Islamic and Christian communities.

The date of the delegation's visit is expected to be fixed once arrangements have been completed.

## Aqaba bound ship turned back

By Ghadeer Taber  
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — American warships enforcing the U.N. international embargo against Iraq intercepted a ship en route to the Jordanian Red Sea port of Aqaba, according to shipping sources in Amman.

The Blue Nile, sailing under a Sudanese flag, was intercepted and turned back Oct. 28 at 11 a.m. for "irrelevant reasons," the sources in contact with the ship said. "They (U.S. Navy) misinterpreted the abbreviating of some commercial cargo on the manifest," the source quoted a Blue Nile officer as saying. The Blue Nile has sailed back to Port Sudan to wait for instructions.

The ship, which has been turned back from Aqaba once before for a similar reason, was carrying general cargo ranging from animal food to electrical appliances.

Shipping line agents have contacted the concerned government authorities about the blockade. The agents said they "got the impression that the government was planning to take this issue to the highest authorities." Jordanian officials and American Embassy diplomats could not be reached for comment Monday evening.

Many shipping agents and officials believe these actions are designed to block activity at the port in order to further place pressure on Jordan for its perceived pro-Iraqi stance in the crisis.

Jordan has refused to support the deployment of foreign forces "in Saudi Arabia and the Gulf but at the same time has called for an Iraqi withdrawal and has rejected Iraq's occupation of Kuwait. The Kingdom has also pledged to adhere to U.N. imposed sanctions against Iraq.

Saudi Arabia has also taken steps seen as aimed at hampering shipping to the Kingdom. Riyadh, citing unprecedented customs procedures, is delaying transshipments destined for Jordan at the Red Sea port of Jeddah. In addition to the piling up of over 200 containers destined for Jordan at Jeddah, a "new Saudi trend has surfaced," Tawfiq Kawai, president of the Jordanian Shipping Agents Association, said last week. He said it had become difficult for ships to sail to Aqaba from Saudi ports to pick up Jordanian exports of phosphates.

Kawai accused Saudi customs authorities of "deliberately delaying the clearance process (for vessels bound for Aqaba) by ignoring our repeated requests."

## Centre in Zarqa to advise on saving energy

AMMAN (J.T.) — The Ministry of Energy and Mineral Resources Monday opened an energy and electricity information and advisory centre in Zarqa to provide advice to the public about means of cutting down on electricity and fuel consumption in the course of a nation-wide drive to reduce fuel consumption under the present difficult circumstances.

The ministry's Secretary General Assem Ghosheh inaugurated the centre, the third of its kind in Jordan, and said that the bills were showing a decrease in fuel consumption, but he did not disclose the amount of savings.

The Ministry of Energy and Mineral Resources has just completed an initial study on the results of the application of fuel saving measures, introduced on Oct. 7, and found out that "quite a reasonable margin of savings of

imported oil used for generating electricity and driving machines has been made."

Last week, Jordan Electricity Authority (JEA) Director General Mohammad Saeed Arafeh said on Jordan Television that feed back in the form of bills for consumed energy available to JEA show that members of public have been reducing energy consumption especially in the domestic fields.

Predictions made by JEA and Jordanian economists upon the introduction of energy conservation measures predicted that at least 3,550 tonnes of fuel, needed to produce electricity, would be saved every year.

The government introduced a two-day weekend for its employees to cut down on energy and fuel used in the buildings and

transport. It also decided that commercial businesses close at 7 p.m. and street lighting be switched off at 5 a.m.

In financial terms the economists said the measures would save up to \$500,000 monthly, in addition to an unspecified quantity of fuel used for transporting employees to and from work.

Ghosheh said in his statement Monday that the bills were "good indicators that reducing fuel consumption was yielding fruit" and that the measures were welcomed by the public sectors in general.

The centre in Zarqa, like the other two located in Amman and Irbid he said, will be providing advice free of charge about heating facilities, lighting, insulation of buildings and different means of cutting down on fuel and electricity consumption.

## Gulf crisis affects AAU activities

AMMAN (J.T.) — Certain aspects of the activities of the Association of Arab Universities (AAU) have been affected by the Gulf crisis, mainly meetings and seminars that had been scheduled to be held in Arab states, according to AAU Secretary General Dr. Mohammad Dugheim.

A seminar on history teaching at Arab universities that has been scheduled for the coming month at the University of Jordan, a seminar on dentistry, which was scheduled for January 1991 at Tanta University in Egypt, a seminar on university regulations scheduled to be held in Bahrain, and a meeting on oil and minerals scheduled for November at the Syrian Baath University have all been postponed until further notice, according to Dugheim in a statement to the Jordan News Agency, Petra.

"But on the whole contacts between the Amman-based AAU and various universities concerning normal university activities in the Arab World and information collected or distributed about various issues related to teaching and regulations were continuing at a normal pace and were not affected," Dugheim said.

"At present the AAU is busy working on a general guidebook for all staff at Arab universities despite the crisis and differences among the Arab regimes on political matters," Dugheim said.

The AAU board meeting, he added, has scheduled a meeting in Qatar in February where a

scientific conference on higher education economics and its relations to socio-economic development will be organised.

Referring to the Arab universities in the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip, Dugheim said that AAU has been pursuing a policy of exposing the Israeli practices to the world.

AAU has been in contact with regional and international organisations, like the United Nations Educational Scientific and Cultural Organisation (UNESCO) and the U.N. organisation in New York as well as international conferences, to present the case of the Arab universities, which have been closed for more than three years without justification by the Israelis, Dugheim said.

"In many cases world organisations have been exercising pressure on the Israeli authorities to reopen the Arab universities and release detained staff members and students," Dugheim added.

He said that the AAU would continue to extend all possible assistance to the Arab universities in the occupied territories in cooperation with the Arab universities so that Palestinians' steadfastness could be further boosted.

He said that the AAU was trying to increase the number of seats assigned in Arab universities for students from occupied Palestine and to increase the amounts of funds allocated for Arab universities under Israeli rule.

## Mother Teresa may consider visit to Baghdad

## Charity group unveils initiative for Gulf talks

By P.V. Vivekanand  
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — An international group which enjoys the support of renowned pacifist and social worker Mother Teresa has unveiled a self-initiated proposal for peace talks to resolve the Gulf crisis and is appealing to all parties concerned not to undertake any "inflammatory" activities which could undermine its efforts.

"Refugee Year 89-90," a London-based international charity, has been working since Oct. 15 to arrange a "peace meeting, involving politicians from the different countries involved (in the Gulf crisis), on neutral territory" in the next 24 to 21 days, said Daniel Lillis, deputy secretary-general of the organisation, which was set up in November 1989.

The organisation has no political position on the conflict and is seeking only to develop a "dialogue" among the parties. "Any political substance to the talks should come from the various interested parties involved," Lillis told a press conference Monday. At the same time, he said, the proposal has the endorsement of "eight to nine European countries and several Asian nations," he said. "Discussions would also reflect the wider concerns of the interested parties regarding the long-standing problems of the region," he said in an obvious reference to the Arab-Israeli conflict and other problems in the region.

Lillis declined to name the countries which support the group's initiative or the possible venue of the suggested peace conference.

The main concern behind the organisation's effort was for the "perhaps millions" of people who could be displaced because of the fears of "war on a massive scale" in the region, Lillis said.

Lillis said the group's chairman, Father Kevin Doherty, who held talks with His Majesty King Hussein in Amman Oct. 14 before flying to Baghdad, remained in the Iraqi capital awaiting "certain clarifications and responses" to the proposal, which also includes an offer of humanitarian help to "vulnerable groups" hit by the international sanctions

against Iraq and assistance to secure the release of foreign nationals held in Iraq and Kuwait as deterrent against attack by the U.S.-led multinational force assembled in Saudi Arabia and elsewhere in the Gulf region.

The issue of foreign nationals was raised by Mahdi Saleh and Ramadan, and Iraq renewed its position that all the foreigners held in Iraq and Kuwait could leave in return for "the removal of the threat of war," according to Lillis. "If that threat was removed, the 'detainees' would be allowed to leave even if the sanctions remained in place," he said.

Iraqi leaders, including President Saddam Hussein, have said that all foreigners, whom Baghdad describes as "serving the cause of peace," would be permitted to leave if the U.S. pledges not to stage a military assault on Iraq. The U.S. has not ignored the Iraqi offer.

"This morning there was contact between Father Doherty and the Iraqi officials," Lillis told the press conference. "We hope that another round of meetings could be held with the Iraqi government in the next 10 days and (the aspirated) peace conference in the next 14 to 21 days," he added.

"Humanitarian supply lines have been offered to the Iraqi government by our organisation with full regard to the sanction resolution passed by the U.N. and in strict accordance with international law," Lillis said. The next phase in the group's plan is to contact the Bush administration and then Italy, current president of the European Community (EC).

"In the meantime, we appeal to all concerned parties not to do anything inflammatory" to aggravate the situation, Lillis said.

Parallel to the peace effort, the group has also undertaken research to come up with programmes to help groups vulnerable to the impact of the international sanctions against Iraq. Lillis affirmed that the affects of the sanctions were showing among some sectors of the Iraqi population. Other peace emissaries have also said that there was an acute shortage of baby food and milk in Iraq.

The "refugee year" official provided very little detail of what exactly the group's peace

proposal was. "I am not at liberty to release any more details at this point in time since the efforts and the talks are very delicate," he said.

Lillis, who travelled to Baghdad with Father Doherty Oct. 15, said the Iraqi government officials contacted by the group included Parliament Speaker Saleh Mahdi Saleh and Deputy Prime Minister Taha Yassin Ramadan, through whom it sent at least two messages to Iraqi President Saddam Hussein.

"Our proposal is on the table" in Baghdad, Lillis said. He did not rule out a visit to Baghdad by Mother Teresa, a 1979 Nobel Peace Prize winner for her charity work in the slums of the Indian city of Calcutta and elsewhere around the world.

Lillis paid tribute to Jordanian efforts to resolve the Gulf crisis and recalled that the King had undertaken moves before the United Nations. The King's efforts, he said, "could be built upon."

Stopping short of criticising the U.N., Lillis said that "no one has come up with any peace solution" to the Gulf crisis. He said his group was in contact with "everyone who is interested in peace."

Lillis summed up the group's opinion about British Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher's position on the Gulf crisis with one word: "Unhelpful."

"Refugee 89-90" appears to have its hopes on the international credibility and respect enjoyed by Mother Teresa, patron of the organisation.

As a previous winner of the Nobel Peace Prize, and as a person recognised by the whole world as a tireless campaigner for the cause of peace and goodwill amongst all, we felt that she was in a good position to help," Lillis said.

He noted that hundreds of thousands of evacuees from Iraq and Kuwait passed through Jordan and praised the Kingdom's leadership and people for the facilities they extended to the refugees. "I appeal to the governments of the world to remember this humanitarian act when considering the situation of Jordan at this time and to urgently consider the speedy delivery of the financial aid already promised," he said.

### HOME NEWS IN BRIEF

#### Prince Hassan visits Division

AMMAN (Petra) — His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan Monday visited the Fourth Royal Mechanised Division headquarters where he was received by its commander and senior officials. The Crown Prince later visited one of the division's formations and inspected its training process and administrative work. The Prince conveyed to the formation's recruits the greetings of His Majesty King Hussein, the supreme commander of the Jordanian Armed Forces, and urged them to persevere in their work to keep the Armed Forces strong.

#### Kabariti, German ambassador hold talks

AMMAN (Petra) — Minister of Tourism and Antiquities Abdul Karim Al Kabariti thanked the German government for the assistance it extended to Jordan. In a meeting Monday with the German Ambassador to Jordan Herwig Bartels, Kabariti reviewed the effects of the Gulf crisis on Jordan in general, and on tourism in particular. Kabariti and Bartels also discussed the arrangements taken for opening Umm Qais Gallery and the completion of the renovation works carried out through assistance from the German government.

## WHAT'S GOING ON

The following listings are compiled from monthly bulletins and the daily Arabic press. Readers are advised to verify the listed time and place with the concerned institutions.

### EXHIBITIONS

- \* Exhibition of children's paintings at Abdul Hameed Shomaa Foundation (9 a.m. - 5 p.m.).
- \* Exhibition entitled "Science and Technology Parks" at the British Council.

### FILMS

- \* Opera film festival (organised jointly by Goethe Institute and the British Council and introduced in Arabic and English by Nuri Rabeihani at the British Council); on Sunday "Die Fledermaus" will be screened at 8:00 p.m.

## National charter panels finalise work

AMMAN (J.T.) — Most of the sub-committees affiliated to the general commission preparing the national charter have finalised their work and a special group is now preparing two working papers for the commission's discussions, according to Ahmad Obaidat, chairman of the Royal Commission on the National Charter.

Obaidat told the Jordan News Agency, Petra, that the two papers would deal with the Jordanian Palestinian cooperation and with Jordanian ties with Arab and foreign countries.

The sub-committees which finalised their work are those dealing with economic and social issues, political pluralism and the state of law, education and national security.

According to Obaidat, the Royal commission will hold a meeting later on to discuss the two papers and will also review the sub-committees' reports.

Obaidat said that the commission was yet to debate a working paper about national security. He believed that the final approval of this particular paper depended on the endorsement by the commission of the other papers and reports.



# Jordan Times

An independent Arab political daily published in English by the Jordan Press Foundation. Established 1975

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Chairman of the Board of Directors:  
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Editor-in-Chief:  
GEORGE S. HAWATMEH

Editorial and advertising offices:

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## Gorbachev on the mark

SOVIET President Mikhail Gorbachev hit the right chord yesterday when he called for an inter-Arab meeting to settle the Gulf crisis. His call should revive hope that the world may finally be coming back to its senses in handling what is basically an intra-Arab problem.

The Gulf landscape would have been so much different today had the Arab World been given enough time and support to restore Kuwait just after the Aug. 2 invasion. But as things went, condemnations were more important, so were "opportunities" to establish a new world order and all sorts of attempts to seize on narrow national self interests by those who wrecked the then budding Arab solution.

With what President Gorbachev said in Paris yesterday, this may be the beginning of a tumultuous 360-degree turn in the search for a Gulf solution. That is, unless a shooting war is in the making already. Up until the just-concluded Soviet-French summit, France was constantly groping for ideas that carried the seeds of a possible compromise. Those ideas culminated in the Sept. 24 initiative of President Francois Mitterrand in his speech to the General Assembly. France continued its zigzag approach towards that goal even in the face of some strong opposition, but seems to have shied away from pressing on probably because it did not want to be seen as breaking ranks with the U.S. and Britain in the aftermath of the Iraqi decision to free French nationals.

The Soviets appear to be stepping in now to fill the gap that the French might have left behind temporarily. Significantly, the Gorbachev statement is mutually reinforcing of the original French position which has always sought to find a solution to the problem within an Arab context and is in line with Security Council Resolution 660 which also calls on the Arabs to work out their own problems. The fact that Mr. Gorbachev's personal representative, Yevgeny Primakov, was in Saudi Arabia yesterday lends credence to the assertion that the Soviets are not operating in a vacuum. It also proves that Moscow's position is more practical and savvy of Arab politics than it is theoretical and isolated from the realities on the ground in this region. The onus now is on the Arabs themselves to understand the message and to absorb the implications of a solution imposed from the outside.

The Arab World is not unaware that the U.S., Britain and other like-minded countries have their own agenda to pursue in this part of the world. This agenda is not identical to ours. Nor does it serve our best interests. An Arab political solution to the Iraq-Kuwait conflict is not only feasible and preferable: it is the shortest and surest way to averting devastating war and foreign domination of this area.

It is incumbent on Saudi Arabia in particular to revisit Prince Sultan's recent statements and its old approach to solving inter-Arab problems. The kingdom must remember that with its mentalities and own agendas, President George Bush and Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher are the least likely to have Arab interests at heart. In the end, only the Arabs can help themselves.

## ARABIC PRESS COMMENTARIES

As a Soviet presidential envoy continues his tour in the Arab region, a Soviet-French summit is being held in Paris in search for a political solution to the Gulf crisis, said Al Ra'i Arabic daily Monday. The language of war, the paper said, is no more preferred in the West except for Britain; and it is not used by the Arabs with the exception of Egypt, the language of peace is now being preferred by many nations which chose to follow Jordan's example in this course, since Jordan and the other peace-loving nations realise the magnitude of the devastation that could befall the region should war start and should the Western nations persist in their drive to impose their hegemony on the region for the sake of securing their own selfish interests, said the paper. The world community is no more forced to succumb to the United States will and the British Zionist conspiracies against the Arab Nation although the military buildup is continuing in the Gulf and despite the absence of a clear cut plan yet to achieve peace through dialogue, the paper pointed out. There is no doubt that Iraq for its part realises the dangers of war in the Gulf and is now doing all it can to achieve a peaceful settlement that would ensure the rights of all parties, the paper continued. The paper expressed hope that the current diplomatic efforts would yield fruit.

A columnist in Al Ra'i Arabic daily expressed dissatisfaction with the Syrian media's interpretation of the American policies in the Arab region, and criticised Damascus's call for separating between the Gulf issue and the Palestine question. Mahmoud Al Rimawi says that the Syrian media have been calling on the Arabs to reconsider their stand with regard to the United States only in terms of Washington's relations with Tel Aviv, but the same media supports the United States stand vis-a-vis the Gulf crisis and the presence of the American forces in the Gulf. The Syrian media, says the writer, have been all praise for the United States for supporting Syria's actions against General Aoun in Lebanon, but nothing has been said by the same media about Washington's continued support for Israel in maintaining its occupation of Southern Lebanon. Rimawi notes. He says that Syria and the Arabs should realise that the United States can change its policies overnight depending on its own interests, but it remains the same ally of Israel in all its actions. He says that Washington can care about nothing except its own interests and the interests of its allies in the Arab region.

CAUSE and effect: with the disintegration of the Soviet bloc, the once great Non-Aligned Movement, spearheaded by the Third World countries, has, to all purposes, been rendered defunct too. It is as if the Soviet Union has played a dirty trick upon the Third World. Without serving any notice at all, it suddenly withdrew from its role as a superpower. Given the nature of internal crisis they were — and are — facing, the Soviet authorities perhaps had little choice left. That does not still lessen the predicament for those Third World governments who had for long moved the non-aligned show.

The bipolarity of the Cold War had suited these governments exceedingly well. It was a mishmash of sincerity of belief and role-playing: some of the non-aligned would tilt toward this superpower, some toward the other one, occasionally allegiances would be switched.

To watch the United States and the Soviet Union side on the same side of a United Nations resolution was too overwhelming an experience. It took the poorer countries of the world some while to accept as fact what was till yesterday an absurdity, yes, black and white were indistinguishable, the interests of the USA and the Soviet Union converge. All past calculations have thus to be thrown out the window: the Third World nations are, in the aftermath, left to fend for themselves.

This is something they have never done in the past. Petrified by the phenomenon of solidarity presented by the rich and near-rich governments, their first reaction to the outbreak of the Kuwait crisis was

**'Global power and its distribution, hinge on the power of money. The West's near-total control over international credit institutions confers upon it an extraordinary advantage in influencing arrangements in country after poor country: otherwise supposed to be sovereign.'**

There were certain rules of the game, cynical and yet fairly well understood. During the day you were part of a united front of the under-developed nations railing against imperialism and neo-colonialism, and reading stern sermons to either or both of the superpowers. Following sundown, as the cows came home, and the curtains were drawn, a change of script took place — it was all obsequiousness, and the countries begged for favours from the superpower they had a special, "confidential" relationship with.

The coordinates of such behaviour were precisely defined. What gave the Non-Aligned Movement its resilience was this ability to apply pressure, alternately or simultaneously, with total risklessness, on either superpower by the smaller fry. Over the years, this fair for gentle blackmailing received tacit acceptance in the circles that mattered. Tolerance was the by-word, live and let live, you would live as long as the superpowers, either or both of them, would allow you to. The superpowers too would permit the arrangement to be sustained: both discovered previously unsuspected virtues in it. The key strategy for the successful conduct of the Cold War was to build up a milieu of terror, which would cause fright, but would not go out of control; at the very first sign of any such danger, either superpower would use one of the non-aligned governments as a page-boy to send a message across to the other party: things would immediately simmer down.

Now tragedy has struck. One of the superpowers has gone out of business, and the only one left in the arena could not care less for the non-aligned rabble. The profession of non-alignment is gone. Which is why the Iraq-Kuwait crisis caught the Third World nations so much groping for position they could cling on to.

to cave in before Western blandishments. The administration of the great United States of America, with its impeccable record of correct behaviour in Grenada, Nicaragua, Panama and, one should add, Cuba, was so eminently qualified to give vent to righteous indignation at the unprovoked attack launched by Iraq against Kuwait. Down with that beast, Saddam Hussein, out with the sanctions, vacate the aggression or else, said the big powers. Out with the sanctions, vacate the aggression or else, echoed the stragglers of the Third World.

It was only after a full month had gone by that some of them came to realise the nitty-gritty new facts of life: in a unipolar global system, the world's poor must reach their own judgment, exercising their own faculties and taking into account their own interests. They can no longer expect to extract any considerations from out of the United States by threatening to cast their vote with the Soviet Union. They cannot get any lift from the Soviet Union, which has enough troubles of its own and will not do anything that could jeopardise the accommodation, may be of the order of \$120 billion, may be more, it is hoping to obtain from the about-to-begin-to-disperse-favours European Bank of Reconstruction and Development. It is learning the hard way: even as their nationals are stranded in the deserts which join Kuwait with Amman, the Third World governments are gradually realising that concepts of right and wrong delineated in the United Nations Charter are amenable to subjective interpretations. The sanctions resolution on the Kuwait developments clearly provided for the induction of food and medicine into Iraq "in humanitarian circumstances." Reaching supplies so that the guest workers from Asia and their families could

# Shifting loyalties

By Ashok Mitra

be saved from starvation and epidemic did not however satisfy the standards of humanitarianism the U.S. State Department and Margaret Thatcher had set for themselves; it needed the threat of united action on the part of the poorer countries to force a shift in their stand.

That is both a signal and lesson. The U.S. administration appears to be acting in accordance with a carefully worked out script. The collapse of the Soviet Union and Eastern Europe is a gift from heaven. It might still be only a temporary situation. Another great ideological upsurge in the lands to the east of the Oder-Neisse line cannot be ruled out for ever. In any event, the East Europeans cannot provide the United States and its allies the oil they desperately need to service their burgeoning standard of living. Another couple of decades are perhaps needed for the technological breakthrough that will liberate them from their perilous dependence on oil-based energy. Forget the U.N. Charter, might is right, the United States will secure its sources of supply of oil in West Asia through deployment of force, by actually landing its army and marines in the Arab Peninsula to protect the oil installations there. The Qadhafis and the Saddam Husseins are obstructionists; they stand against great American objective in West Asia; they therefore deserve to be destroyed. And the Americans can hardly suppress their delight at the serendipity that has visited them. The winding down of the Cold War could have been domestically unwholesome: it might have halved the demand for armaments, provided a jolt to the industrial-military complex, and caused a first rate economic depression in the country. The West Asian developments have reversed all that; the toadying sheikhs will now be made to huy billions and billions dollars worth of "junk" armaments from the States, the threat of domestic recession will immediately disappear.

In this exciting agenda, the poor belonging to the Third World do not occur. Neither the Soviet Union nor the United States will assume any responsibility for them. That fact should make them grow up, and grow up fast. Repeating after others such banalities as that Iraq must quit her aggression in Kuwait is not going to yield them any dividends.

The "catalyst" group our government is trying to put together in association with Algeria and Yugoslavia has still the wrong focus. Wangling some money out of the rich Western powers to rehabilitate the workers displaced from West Asia is small-time stuff, and will not take us very far. The Western governments may throw some crumbs towards our direction; that would be about all. The experiments with "catalysis" have to be for a far wider purpose. We must learn to discard the illusion that begging for favours is any kind of foreign policy. To survive in the non-bipolar climate,

**'Now tragedy has struck. One of the superpowers has gone out of business, and the only one left in the arena could not care less for the non-aligned rabble. The profession of non-alignment is gone. Which is why the Iraq-Kuwait crisis caught the Third World nations so much groping for a position they could cling on to. To watch the United States and the Soviet Union side on the same side of a United Nations resolution was too overwhelming an experience. It took the poorer countries of the world some while to accept as fact what was till yesterday an absurdity, yes, black and white were indistinguishable, the interests of the USA and the Soviet Union converge. All past calculations have thus to be thrown out the window: the Third World nations are, in the aftermath, left to fend for themselves.'**

we have to mature into toughness, which only joint planning with other governments placed in the same plight as ours can promote.

Of course, we must go by our own interpretation of "humanitarian circumstances," and continue to airlift food and medicines to Iraq and Kuwait. If half-a-dozen members of the former non-aligned movement were to form a joint air armada, the Western powers are bound to think twice before attempting to enforce the kind of "interdiction" they are threatening the poorer nations with. It is going to be a new sort of Cold War: the combatants are different, the rules of basic manoeuvre are however unchanged: keep rattling the sabre but do not go overboard. Any actual outbreak of conflagration endangering wholesale their oil supplies is unlikely to suit Western interests. That bit of realpolitik should stimulate the poorer governments into more activism.

For it is equally important to look beyond today's immediate crisis. The structure of global politics has to be assembled afresh, and on the basis of new assumptions. With the Soviet bloc for the present

removed from the picture, only their united strength can enable the Third World countries to frustrate the aggrandising ambitions of the Western powers. Saddam Hussein has after all, convincingly demonstrated one crucial point: it is not that difficult to checkmate the West; the latter's runaway military superiority is of no avail when a weaker opponent is prepared to put to use lessons learnt from games of strategy. Certainly, the future in West Asia belongs to the Arab youth and therefore to their heroes, the Qadhafis and the Saddam Husseins. It will thus make sense for our envoys to talk quietly to the Iraqis and already arrange that once the Western powers climb down and a settlement "honourable" to all sides is reached over Kuwait, our workers are allowed to return to their occupations and activities. The crisis actually provides the opportunity to the catalyst group to restructure the Non-Aligned Movement as a concordat of the world's poor, who are not denied their rights.

But it is no longer going to be the ambience of after-hour parleys. Global power and its distribution, hinge on the pow-

er of money. The West's near-total control over international credit institutions confers upon it an extraordinary advantage in influencing the economic arrangements in country after poor country, otherwise supposed to be sovereign: the terms of trade are turned against these countries, their domestic policies are shaped according to the interests of the West, the multinational corporations walk into these countries and control just any sphere of activity they choose. The compulsions of independent development should thus push the Third World nations into united action against this credit monopoly. To subdue a monopoly, it is a standard dodge to set up a counter-monopoly.

To checkmate the International Monetary Fund and the World Bank and their assorted subsidiaries who between them have complete command over the world's liquidity, the Third World countries need to establish a credit system of their own. They, in other words, must think to set up their own bank. Such a bank must however be backed by adequate resources, by availing which a poor country will be able to stand up to the hullyung of Western corporations and trading agencies. Thus, the catalyst group the newspapers are mentioning can be only a beginning: the Third World governments must set to work a group of economists and financial experts to go quietly into the matter and prepare the blueprint of a strong and resilient Third World credit institution. While proceeding with this task, the parties concerned must discard all mental reservations about the company they want to keep. Only Libya, Iran, Iraq and other such oil-rich nations are in a position to contribute the immense resources called for underwriting the viability of a Third World bank. That reality has to be accepted.

It has to obviously be a new texture of global relationships. The Arabs, and perhaps the Latin Americans, will come into much greater prominence than before in this ambience. Should we in India want to be part of this arrangement, we will have to rid ourselves of the last vestiges of neo-colonial snobbery. We will have to accept new allegiances, new friendships, new rules. And of course pick up new languages, such as Spanish and Arabic.

Faced with this challenge, will our government be caught in two minds? There are indications that it is indeed likely to be. Krishna Menon was an aberration, our Ministry of External Affairs is by and large still the outfit the plining-after-the-raj ICS crowd helped Jawaharlal Nehru to assemble; they chiselled into a fine art the practice of mouthing non-aligned mumbo-jumbo in public, while knowing to the Western powers in private. That pattern of behaviour dies hard. There is, besides, the Ministry of Finance, packed with starry-eyed admirers of Western financial institutions, who will fight and fight again to prevent the emergence of a parallel centre of financial power. Some amongst them certainly dislike the idea of India surviving as a sovereign nation.

This article is reprinted from The Illustrated Weekly of India. The writer is a minister of the state of West Bengal of India.

## Lebanon's warlords divided over disarming their militias:

By Samia Nakhoul Renter

BEIRUT — Distrust among Lebanon's warlords poses the next challenge to President Elias Hrawi following the crushing of his main opponent General Michel Aoun in a Syrian-led attack on the Christian enclave two weeks ago.

Harawi's government wants to unite divided Beirut and areas to the north and south under one army. It plans to close militia offices and militia-controlled ports and illegal tax collection by armed groups. But militia leaders remain divided over disarming their private armies, some with thousands of men, who have fought over 15 years for dominance of the country.

Their memories are long and often bitter. Druze Leader Walid Jumblatt told Reuters at the weekend he would only hand over his militia's weapons to Syria, and not to the Lebanese army. He said the Sectarian-

divided army, commanded by a Maronite Christian, had sided with his rival Christian Lebanese Forces (LF) militia in battles against his forces in the Druze-held Shouf mountains in 1983.

"I will (only) return the trust to its source," said Jumblatt, leader of the Druze Progressive Socialist Party (PSP).

Samir Geagea, who heads the 10,000-strong LF, said on Thursday he was no longer at war with his rival Muslim groups.

Jumblatt, who has some 5,000 men, said despite talks of peace and national reconciliation, his feud with the LF would go on.

"The matter does not end by shaking hands," he said. "We have an enemy who until the near past was at war with us."

There are nine main militias in Lebanon, most allied to Syria, Iran or Israel. The main groups are the pro-Syrian Amal, the PSP, the Iranian-backed Hizbollah (Party of God), the LF and the pro-Israeli South Lebanon Army

(SLA).

Nabih Berri, the leader of the 5,000-strong Amal has said he was prepared to disband his group Hizbollah, which is believed to hold most of the 12 Western hostages in Lebanon, says it wants to keep guns to use against Israel.

There are a handful of smaller groups, all pro-Syrian, which Lebanese sources believe would rapidly switch from the gun to the ballot box once Amal and the LF took the lead and the threat of annihilation by heavily-armed enemies diminished as army powers increased.

The Israel-backed South Lebanon Army militia which controls a strategic buffer zone along the Jewish state's northern border, is outside the control of the Lebanese government.

Jumblatt, a close ally to Syria which has 40,000 troops in Lebanon, said he would not give his arms to the Lebanese army before the formation of a new "patriotic and unbiased military command" that did

not favour Christians over Muslims.

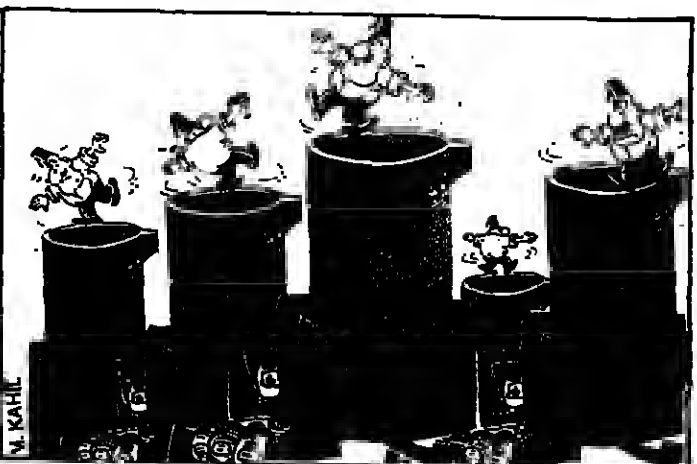
He urged army commander general Emil Lahoud to clean his ranks of "suspicious officers" and make new formations on a "trusted national basis".

The Druze leader demanded that a Syrian-Lebanese-American committee be formed to supervise and guarantee the disarming of the LF, which he accused of being the ally of Israel and the United States in Lebanon.

"I want guarantees that the Lebanese Forces militia will not retain its weapons. This needs a joint Arab and international committee," he added.

Jumblatt asked that his 5,000 men be integrated with the army when they are disbanded. "We can't just throw them in the street. We have to find a solution for them," he added.

He said he had accepted an Arab peace plan reached in the Saudi city of Taif to end Lebanon's 15 years of civil war "but that doesn't mean that we have accepted hypocritical reconciliation by beard kissing."



Geagea said however: "Whoever agreed to the Taif plan is no longer our enemy. The state of enmity between us and the others is over."

"How can we forget the history of Geagea and his wars," Jumblatt said. "Suddenly we have to clear his record and forget the past...no, there are limits to everything."

Geagea's militiamen fought bloody battles with several leftist groups in the Shouf moun-

tains, the coastal Iqim Al-Kharroub district and in Christian villages east of the city of Sidon between 1983 and 1985. Thousands of people were killed or displaced in the fighting.

The Taif peace pact reached last year is aimed at ending the long-running sectarian power struggle in Lebanon by giving Muslims more say in the previously Christian-dominated system.



## ... However a few signs of hope shine out like beacons in black Africa

NAIROBI (R) — From north to south, east to west, Africa is wracked by seemingly unending turmoil and unrest.

In many countries, drought and poverty worsen the agony — and relief supplies fall casualty to civil war.

A few signs of hope shine out like beacons.

In South Africa, the white government is taking steps to dismantle the apartheid system that enshrines white privilege and supremacy, but black is killing black as their leaders vie for political leadership.

In Chad, a conflict with Libya that has lasted 17 years may be drawing to an end — but in Ethiopia and Liberia bitter fighting rages on.

Somalia's vast impoverished land is mostly under rebel control, and fighting continues to southern Sudan. The newest conflict in Africa is a rebel invasion of tiny Rwanda.

In the south of the continent rebel armies wage civil war in Mozambique and Angola, although diplomats say military action in both conflicts appears to have lessened since peace talks started this year.

Reuters correspondents sent the following reports from old and new trouble spots.

**RWANDA:** This hilly central African country (population:

seven million) became the continent's latest venue for war when a rebel force invaded on Oct. 1.

By the end of the month the rebel force, composed mostly of exiled members of the country's minority Tutsi tribe who deserted the Uganda army to launch their campaign, were firmly entrenched in a northeast corner of the former Belgian colony.

The rebels said they were campaigning for Rwandan citizenship and the overthrow of President Juvenal Habyarimana, who they called corrupt and undemocratic. The government accused the rebels of trying to re-install Tutsi leadership which prevailed before a revolt by the majority Hutu tribe in 1959.

Diplomatic efforts to end the conflict were launched rapidly and both sides agreed in principle to a ceasefire. But the government later accused rebels of truce violations and called for an international monitoring force.

**ETHIOPIA** is the cockpit for two of Africa's most bitter conflicts — in Eritrea and Tigray.

In Eritrea, guerrillas have been fighting since 1962 for independence for the former Italian colony, Africa's longest-running civil war.

Thousands have died in the fighting which has devastated the land. With rains failing in the

impoverished Horn of Africa, Ethiopia has also been ravaged by some of the worst famines this century. The United Nations estimates some four million people face starvation next year.

The Eritrean People's Liberation Front (EPLF) has laid siege to President Mengistu Haile Mariam's second army of around 120,000 men dug in near the Eritrean capital Asmara and linked to Addis Ababa only by an air bridge.

Meanwhile, the Tigray People's Liberation Front (TPLF), which says it is fighting for a broader-based government now controls Tigray province and parts of neighbouring Gondar, Wollo and Shoa provinces.

**LIBERIA:** the closest thing the United States ever had to a colony in black Africa, is gripped by a civil war that has wrecked the country and degenerated into bloody tribal conflict.

Thousands of people, mostly civilians, have been killed since rebel leader Charles Taylor invaded northeastern Liberia last December seeking to overthrow president and former army master Sergeant Samuel Doe.

The combat in this lush West African country, founded in 1847 by freed American slaves, quickly took on tribal overtones as Doe's Krahn-dominated army took reprisals against civilians of the Gio

and Mano tribes which provide the bulk of Taylor's forces.

Taylor's rag-tag rebels took revenge on Krahn and their tribal allies, the Mandingos.

Taylor routed Doe's army in virtually every battle. He quickly took control of almost all the country, but became bogged down when he reached the capital Monrovia in June.

A rival rebel group led by Prince Yormie Johnson, who split from Taylor in February, seized control of Monrovia's port in July.

The Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) sent in a five-nation peacekeeping force which is seeking to enforce a ceasefire. Doe was tortured to death on Sept. 10 after falling into Johnson's hands.

The peacekeeping force is slowly pushing Taylor back from the outskirts of Monrovia but the U.S.-educated rebel leader has vowed to fight on even if it means guerrilla warfare in the hills.

**ALGERIA:** Since a new constitution in 1989 guaranteed political freedoms, marches, demonstrations and strikes have become almost daily events in Algeria. The first free general elections are promised for early next year — but the army has warned that it will intervene if turmoil threatens national unity.

**CHAD:** A 17-year conflict between Chad and Libya over a patch of desert could be coming to a close at last. The two countries agreed last month to refer the dispute to the International Court of Justice in The Hague.

The conflict began in 1973 when Libya annexed the Aouzou Strip, a 110,000-sq. kilometre stretch of the Sahara reported to be rich in uranium. In 1986 it boiled up into a full-scale war in which France sent military support for Chad.

A ceasefire sponsored by the Organisation of African Unity stopped the fighting in September 1987 but a war of words continued, fanned by long-standing accusations that Libya was supporting Chadian rebels.

**SOMALIA:** Somali President Mohammed Siad Barre's impoverished country is largely ungovernable, with much of the countryside controlled by heavily-armed rebels.

Increasingly frequent bombings by clandestine groups in Mogadishu, the capital, brought the conflict to his doorstep, and the army has been accused of brutal reprisals against civilians in its war with rebels.

Three main armed opposition groups — the Somali National Movement, the United Somali Congress and the Somali Patriotic Front, based respectively in north, central and southern regions, are fighting to end Siad Barre's 21-year rule.

**SUDAN** has suffered civil war and military coups since independence from Anglo-Egyptian rule in 1956.

War raged in its vast, undeveloped southern area from 1955 until 1972 when then-dictator Jaafar Numeiri agreed to give the south autonomous rule.

Eleven years later rebellion erupted again after Numeiri decided to carve up the south into



three provinces.

The ranks of the rebel Sudan People's Liberation Army (SPLA) swelled further when Numeiri imposed strict Islamic Sharia law on Sudan without exempting non-Muslims from their harsh tenets.

The SPLA took a secular Sudan in which all ethnic and religious minorities are given an equal say with the Arabised Muslims in the running of the country.

In June, 1989 a coup led by General Omar Hassan Al-Bashir brought Sudan under direct military rule for the fourth time.

The present round of fighting in South Sudan has indirectly caused the death of hundreds of thousands of civilians through hunger and disease, with both sides in the conflict using food as a strategic weapon.

**ANGOLA's** left-wing government is still fighting U.S.-backed rebels of the National Union for the Total Liberation of Angola (UNITA), which controls the south-east around its base at Jamba and is active along the country's eastern border and in the north.

Diplomats say UNITA has established a second headquarters in northern Angola, near the Zaire border, across which UNITA gets at least \$50 million a year of U.S. support.

Diplomats estimate 75,000 people have been killed in the war. The United Nations says as many as 500,000 lives were lost between 1980 and 1988 from war-related causes such as starvation and disease.

A 50,000-strong Cuban army, invited to Angola by the new government soon after independence in 1975 to counter an invasion threat from South Africa, is now pulling out.

**MOZAMBIQUE's** civil war, now 14 years old, has pitted government forces against the ruthless bush army of Renamo (Mozambique National Resistance) which claims to have more than 26,000 men under arms.

Renamo was created by Mozambique's white minority-ruled neighbour Rhodesia in the 1970s and taken over by South Africa after Rhodesia became independent. Zimbabwe in 1980.

But South Africa says it no longer funds rebel movements in either Mozambique or Angola.

Reports suggest Renamo attacks peaked in 1987 when 424 civilians were killed in a single attack. A year ago, the United Nations said 90,000 Mozambicans had died of war-related starvation and disease.

Renamo is reported in Nairobi to have dropped pre-conditions for resuming peace talks, now expected to take place in Rome in November. Kenya is mediating.

**SOUTH AFRICA:** Almost 800 blacks were shot, hacked or burnt to death in fighting between rival black groups that slowed the process of black-white reconciliation started by reformist President F.W. de Klerk and African National Congress (ANC) leader



"With rains failing in the impoverished Horn of Africa, Ethiopia has been ravaged by some of the worst famines this century. The United Nations estimates some four million people face starvation next year. In 1987, famine threatened the lives of seven to five million Ethiopians a fifth of whom were children (UNICEF photo)."

Nelson Mandela.

The violence in Johannesburg's townships, which eased in late September, tore at the fragile trust built up in preliminary reform talks between Pretoria and the ANC, the main movement campaigning to end 300 years of white domination.

The ANC accused white extremists and state security forces of fomenting black-on-black violence in order to wreck De Klerk's reforms, and threatened to resume the guerrilla campaign it suspended in August if the fighting continued.

The violence pitted ANC supporters against migrant workers loyal to Mandela's main rival, traditionalist Zulu Chief Mangosuthu Buthelezi.

## French nationals head for home from Baghdad

(Continued from page 1)

other westerners remain in Iraq and Kuwait.

"I express the joy of all the French people to those coming home," Mitterrand said. "But we will rejoice fully only when the other 'hostages' can return to their own countries."

Mitterrand spoke a news conference with Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev following the signing of a Franco-Soviet cooperation treaty.

In Athens, the Greek Foreign Ministry issued a statement on Sunday saying Iraq was allowing 10 Greeks to leave, leaving behind 14 others and four diplomats.

Official spokesman Vyrion Polydoros said the Greeks were to depart Baghdad on the French flight to Paris.

The Iraqis agreed to release the nine men and one woman because of ill health following a trip

to Baghdad by two former Greek Socialist ministers.

Iraq is still holding 14 Greek nationals and gave no indication when they would be freed.

Polydoros told a news conference that the Greek embassy in Baghdad was in contact with Iraqi authorities to win the release of the remaining Greeks.

The Iraqi National Assembly has endorsed President Saddam Hussein's proposal to allow some 700 Bulgarians held in the country to go home, the speaker of parliament said Monday.

Saudi Mahdi Saleh told Reuters the assembly had met and approved the suggestion, made Thursday following a four-day visit to Iraq by Bulgarian Vice-President Atanas Semerjiev.

He did not say when parliament convened for the purpose. Baghdad Television had quoted a joint communiqué issued after the visit as saying

Iraq and Bulgaria were convinced should be solved through dialogue.

## King: Peace possible

(Continued from page 1)

of cohesion. This is all causing frustration. Then they see in [Iraqi President] Saddam (Hussein) someone who managed to get his country together after eight years of terrible war and tremendous losses. They also see Iraq as a potential model, with 17 million people, with all its resources, calling for the use of these resources not for themselves but for others.

Many Arabs would like to achieve a degree of respect in the world; they no longer want to be treated as inferior. Obviously there is a lot of anger, a lot of resentment and a determination to get out of this situation. I'm not saying there is one individual who could achieve all these hopes, but Iraq represents change."

"Our hope is that everybody changes for the better. Jordan is an example. Everything is out in the

open. We hear and feel what the people think. I'm sure the feelings are much more intense in other Arab states. The sparks could begin to fire at any time if people don't look at themselves and reassess. All of us need to do that."

The King expressed regret over the position of U.S. President George Bush and British Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher towards Jordan. "It causes me considerable pain, because I have never changed. I've always acted in what I believe is the interests of the Arab people. But we are living in a kind of world when at times there is this attitude — at which I rather rebel — that you are either with us or against us. We should be partners."

"Jordan is being punished for holding its head high and trying to contribute to a solution that makes sense."

## Gorbachev urges move

(Continued from page 1)

Yevgeny Primakov, indicating after a visit to Baghdad that there were some shifts in Iraq's positions. The Soviet leader did not elaborate.

Primakov briefed the Saudi foreign minister Monday on his talks with Saddam.

Primakov met with Prince Saud Al Faisal in Jeddah after Arab foreign ministers of the six-member Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) meeting in Riyadh warned that the region was "on the brink of a destructive war."

Primakov, a member of the Soviet presidential council and a top advisor to the Soviet president, was also expected to brief King Fahd on his talks with Saddam.

Prince Saud told reporters in Riyadh before leaving for Jeddah that the Soviet envoy "asked to come, and so we're going to hear what he has to say."

Neither he nor the chairman of the GCC talks, Oman's Foreign Minister Yusuf Ben Alawi, gave any details of what suggestions Primakov might be carrying from Gorbachev.

In Paris, Soviet Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze said earlier Primakov's talks with Saddam had not borne fruit.

"For the moment, there are not many reasons for optimism" coming from the talks, Shevardnadze said. He did not elaborate.

but said he was still hopeful for a peaceful resolution of the crisis. Gorbachev had suggested on a recent visit to Spain that Iraq may have softened its stance and warned against rushing towards a military solution, saying that the coming days "might bring some clarification" of a change in Iraq's position.

The Soviet Union Saturday prevailed on the United States to delay a vote on another anti-Iraq resolution at the U.N. Security Council until the outcome of Primakov's visit was clear.

Novosti, the official Soviet news agency, has quoted Primakov in the past as saying that Iraq might withdraw from most of Kuwait if it could keep a strip of oil-rich border territory and two islands, which would facilitate Iraqi access to the Gulf.

But Iraq denied contemplating such concessions. On his 36-hour visit to Baghdad, the second to Iraq this month, Primakov also met with Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) Chairman Yasser Arafat.

A PLO official in Baghdad said Arafat, traditionally a close ally of Moscow, urged the Kremlin to redouble its efforts for a peaceful solution.

Primakov met in Baghdad on Oct. 6 with Saddam, and travelled to Washington for talks with U.S. President George Bush.

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## France, Soviet Union sign ambitious accord

**RAMBOUILLET, France** (Agencies) — President Francois Mitterrand and Mikhail Gorbachev signed a cooperation agreement Monday pledging French assistance as the Soviet Union shifts to a market economy.

The treaty also commits France to helping the Soviets arrange accounts with the 12-nation European Community (EC).

The two leaders signed the agreement at the Chateau de Rambouillet, 53 kilometres southwest of Paris, following private talks on the Gulf crisis and other issues.

The treaty says either side may call for consultations if it deems its "major security interests" have been threatened.

The document, to be ratified by the French and Soviet parliaments, also commits both sides to promote democracy and "a Europe based on the right of

## Egypt reaps rewards from Gulf involvement

**CAIRO (AP)** — Egypt's military involvement in the Gulf crisis is proving to be a financial windfall for President Hosni Mubarak's government.

His U.S. and Arab allies are moving to write off \$14 billion in debts — almost a third of a \$50 billion obligation to foreign creditors that for years has crippled the Egyptian economy.

Aid worth hundreds of millions of dollars also is pouring in, and prospects are considered bright for agreement with the International Monetary Fund (IMF) to reschedule the remaining foreign debt.

Mubarak is reaping political benefits as well. Egyptian commentators are praising his handling of Egypt's role in the crisis that began Aug. 2 with Iraq's invasion of Kuwait.

Mahfouz Al Ansary, editor of the government's Al Gomhuriya newspaper, hailed Mubarak's "determination and skill," his "patience, wisdom and hard work."

At the onset of the crisis, it hardly looked as if Mubarak would emerge a winner.

Back then, Egypt had looked likely to be a big financial loser in the conflict. It faced losses estimated at \$4.5 billion in the form of a ruined tourism industry, reduced Suez canal revenues and dwindling remittances from Egyptians working in Gulf countries.

What turned the tide was Mubarak's quick public response to the Iraqi takeover, despite pledges to give quiet diplomacy a chance.

He muscled through an Arab League summit a resolution condemning Iraq, demanding withdrawal from the emirate and authorising dispatch of troops to the Gulf region.

Then he sent nearly 16,000 Egyptian troops to Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates. They were there supposedly to help defend those Arab states, but more importantly, the involvement gave an Arab cover to the presence of Western forces in Saudi Arabia.

Mubarak spent four days in the Gulf region last week, visiting four states allied with him against Iraq. At the end of the tour, it was announced that Saudi Arabia, Qatar, the United Arab Emirates and Kuwait's exiled government



Hosni Mubarak

ern lending nations to convene and arrange rescheduling.

A well-informed economist, speaking on condition he not be further identified, said Egypt has agreed to reduce subsidies further on basic food items, a key IMF reform demand. Additionally, he said, Cairo will further devalue the Egyptian pound and raise bank interest rates.

But he said signing will be delayed because some of the commitments must be ratified by the People's Assembly, Egypt's parliament, which is presently dissolved. A new parliament will be elected in late November and seated in December.

## Moscow mayor appeals for Japanese loans

**TOKYO (Agencies)** — Moscow Mayor Gavril Popov appealed Monday for Japanese loans to help his city convert state businesses into private enterprise.

Moscow plans to begin the shift to private ownership by allowing Moscow residents to own their own homes but the mayor said foreign loans would be used mostly to support "parts of the economy directly governed by the Moscow City government," such as the retail distribution system.

He told reporters Monday at the Foreign Correspondents Club of Japan that only shops deemed healthy enough to succeed in repaying the loans would receive the aid.

Popov, a radical economist who quit the Soviet Communist Party in July, predicted the "500 days" economic reform plan adopted by the Supreme Soviet, the national legislature, earlier this month would fail, threatening the future of democratic forces in the Soviet Union.

The plan calls for such steps as encouraging small private business and ending many state monopolies.

Popov predicted that a few months of failure would convince the Soviet leadership to adopt the more radical measures he and others support.

He rejected calls for Gorbachev's resignation, but said he himself and others might resign if results of national restructuring were disastrous.

Meanwhile, he said he might "passively resist" the conservative restructuring programme and carry out a more radical economic programme locally.

Popov said he would not take the extreme step of asking foreigners to extend loans directly to Moscow City. Loans should go through the central government, but with their recipients and use clearly specified, he said.

Popov joined others in the Soviet Union in calling for Japan to extend economic aid before resolving the issue of several disputed islands.

Kremlin blocking investment

Moscow's deputy mayor Monday criticised what he called the Kremlin's vague economic policies, saying foreign investors were reluctant to start businesses here.

Speaking at a news conference in Moscow Sergei Stankevich assured Muscovites they would have ample food this winter despite rumours that widespread shortages would lead to a food crisis.

But he blamed the Soviet government for failing to take steps that would encourage foreign investment.

"The absence of definite economic plans by the Soviet Union has created instability and hampers contracts with foreign firms," Stankevich said, referring to conflicts between the Kremlin and some republics over how to switch to a market economy.

"No foreign partner will sign a contract if you haven't decided if you're going to have a federal tax or if you are going to have private property," he said.

The Soviet parliament 10 days ago approved a market economy programme backed by President Mikhail Gorbachev, but it was vague on details and has been criticised by several republics including the largest one, the Russian Federation.

Gorbachev issued several decrees to start implementing the programme Friday. But Stankevich, a leading figure in a group of radicals who hold a majority in the Moscow City Council, said these were only half-measures.

"Following the last two presidential decrees, we invited foreigners to open shops in Moscow and sell consumer goods for roubles," he said. "But no laws have been passed giving firms permission to hold rouble accounts."

### AMMAN EXCHANGE RATES

Monday, October 29, 1990					
Central Bank official rates					
	Buy	Sell			
U.S. dollar	653.0	657.0	Japanese yen (for 100)	512.5	515.6
Pound Sterling	1278.3	1286.0	Dutch guilder	384.3	388.6
Deutschemark	433.0	435.6	Swedish crown	116.7	117.4
Swiss franc	511.8	514.9	Italian lira (for 100)	57.9	58.2
French franc	129.4	130.2	Belgian franc (for 10)	209.1	210.4

### LONDON EXCHANGE RATES

**LONDON (R)** — Following are the buying and selling rates for leading world currencies and gold against the dollar at midsession on the London foreign exchange and bullion markets Monday.

One Sterling	1.9565/75	U.S. dollar	1.1630/40
One U.S. dollar	1.1630/40	Canadian dollar	1.5110/15
		Deutschemark	1.7030/40
		Dutch guilders	1.2780/90
		Swiss francs	31.08/13
		Belgian francs	5.0540/50
		French francs	113.1/112
		Italian lire	127.85/95
		Japanese yen	5.6020/70
		Swedish crowns	5.8695/8745
		Norwegian crowns	5.7635/85
		Danish crowns	371.25/371.75
One ounce of gold	371.25/371.75	U.S. dollars	

### WORLD STOCK MARKETS

**TOKYO** — Stocks closed higher with buying of cash indices by futures arbitrageurs accounting for most of the gains. The Nikkei closed up 323.67 to 25,329.31.

**SYDNEY** — Inactivity by major investors pushed shares down. The All Ordinaries closed 9.9 down at 1,344.7.

**HONG KONG** — Bargain-hunters erased early losses but institutional investors remained sidelined. The Hang Seng index closed 12.65 up at 3,063.53.

**SINGAPORE** — Prices closed higher as buyers returned in the afternoon, influenced by a firmer close in Tokyo. The Straits Times Industrial index ended 2.12 up at 1,177.11.

**ZURICH** — Shares ended easier but above the day's lows. The all-share SPI index closed 4.5 down at 933.7.

**PARIS** — Shares were fractionally lower at midday. Quiet trade was dominated by Gulf concerns and easier trends on other European markets. At 1207 GMT the CAC-40 index was down 0.89 at 1,617.69.

**LONDON** — Stocks were mixed in late trading but above the day's lows. The market adopted a wait-and-see attitude towards early Wall Street gains. At 1611 GMT the FTSE index was down 1.2 at 2,061.9.

**NEW YORK** — Stocks held firm in late-morning trading but blue chips edged off session highs. Analysts said market strength was largely a reaction to Friday's sharp decline. The Dow was up about 19 to 2,455.

## Islamabad threatens to stop paying interest on U.S. loans

**ISLAMABAD (R)** — A government minister said Monday Pakistan would stop paying interest on U.S. loans if the United States did not restore its economic and military aid to Islamabad.

Interior Minister Zahid Sarfraz told a news conference a recent cutoff in U.S. aid had left Pakistan with only two options — to let its people starve or stop paying interest.

"Since we will not starve our people, we will stop the interest," he said.

The aid cut of more than \$560 million was triggered Oct. 1 when President George Bush failed to certify to the U.S. Congress that Pakistan did not possess nuclear weapons.

Pakistan has repeatedly denied reports in the West that it has a nuclear bomb, saying its nuclear programme is only for the peaceful

purpose of producing energy.

Washington said earlier this month that in addition to the \$564 million pledged for the next year, the cutoff would affect commitments under previous aid programmes worth \$2.7 billion.

Sarfraz said the cut in aid would damage Pakistan's close ties with the United States.

He said Pakistan should not be regarded as a U.S. colony, adding: "We should not be

## Wall Street seen tense over economy despite budget accord

**NEW YORK (R)** — The U.S. budget pact removed a major factor influencing Wall Street's recent roller-coaster performance, but market analysts expect fresh concerns over corporate earnings, recession fears and the Middle East.

"The budget accord is a positive," said Allen Sinai, chief economist at the Boston Company. "Now markets will have to look forward to the issue of how deep is the recession."

Optimism over the budget and renewed diplomatic efforts to resolve the Gulf crisis are likely to be tempered by concern about the financial fragility of the U.S. economy, analysts said.

Concern over the health of the financial services sector contributed to a slide in U.S. stocks late Friday. The Dow Jones industrial average fell 48.02 to 2,436.14 in the lightest trading day on the big board since Sept. 17. For the week, the Dow 30 index fell about 85 points.

"It has been a roller-coaster the last three or four weeks," said

First Albany chief investment officer Hugh Johnson, adding that the budget accord and optimism over a senior Soviet envoy's discussions with Iraqi leader Saddam Hussein could help counter any follow-through from Friday.

"If there is a recovery, it's likely to be somewhat tentative," Johnson added. "There is still a healthy level of scepticism... the budget accord itself is not enough."

Investors will also be looking for early signs on whether the Federal Reserve (Fed) will ease credit, as Fed Chairman Alan Greenspan had previously asserted it would do upon completion of a credible budget pact. But analysts noted that the Fed's action has been anticipated and its scope is limited by the slumping dollar and high interest rates in Germany and Japan.

"The markets have already factored in a 25-basis-point decrease," said the Boston Company's Sinai.

Some analysts questioned whether the final budget accord

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## Non-Communists poised to win in Georgian elections

### Soviet troops stand by to enter autonomy-seeking Moldavia region

MOSCOW (AP) — Gagauz militants in Moldavia have set up cordons to prevent Soviet troops from entering their region and enforcing state-of-emergency measures imposed by the republic's parliament, the Soviet News Agency (TASS) said Monday.

The Soviet troops, under the command of Gen. Yuri Shatalin, are standing by, ready to go into the Gagauz-controlled territory as soon as orders are issued by parliament, TASS said.

TASS said both Moldavian militia units and Soviet Interior Ministry troops "are prepared to enter the state-of-emergency areas to carry out the instructions of the Moldavian parliament."

A provisional parliamentary committee was monitoring the standoff from Chishishlia, a small town in southern Moldavia bordering on the Gagauz territory, which was declared a state-of-emergency zone last Friday.

"Although there were no clashes between Moldavian and Gagauz volunteers, representatives of Gagauzes set up cordons to prevent the militia from entering their region and enforcing state-of-emergency measures," TASS said.

The Gagauz are a close-knit group of about 150,000 people, all descendants of Christians who fled to Moldavia from Turkey because of religious persecution about 160 years ago.

Worried by rising Moldavian nationalism and angry over a law making Moldavian the republic's official language, the Gagauz claimed the southern corner of the republic and began holding

elections for an autonomous government last week.

Brigades of Moldavian volunteers, said by various sources to number between 12,000 and 50,000 streamed into the area to try and stop the independence movement.

Gagauz youths in turn formed defensive units, aided by some ethnic Russians, who also oppose Moldavian nationalism.

Negotiators for both sides are attempting to defuse the situation and persuade volunteer forces from both sides to pull back.

Soviet officials holding negotiations with representatives of the Gagauz Provisional Committee in the southern city of Komrat called for the withdrawal of militant Gagauz volunteers from the emergency zone, TASS said.

"If this condition is complied with, Moldavian volunteer detachments will be withdrawn from areas adjacent to the state-of-emergency zone," the news agency said.

On Sunday night, the chairman of the executive council of the disputed Komrat region went to television with an appeal for peace between Moldavians and Gagauz.

"The inter-ethnic conflict in the republic has reached the point beyond which there will be bloodshed and the deaths of innocent people," he warned.

According to TASS, the two sides have agreed to set up a joint commission for the mutual inspection of the volunteer units in preparation for their withdrawal. In a separate development, a

non-Communist coalition

appears to have swept to victory in Soviet Georgia in weekend balloting that all but guaranteed the southern republic would declare its independence from the Soviet Union.

The Round Table-Free Georgia Coalition appeared likely to win 60 to 70 per cent of the 250 seats in the republic's legislature, said David Dzhabardze, a member of the Central Election Commission.

The voting was the first true multiparty balloting in the Soviet Union.

The Round Table, led by Zviad Gamsakhurdia, won majorities in all 26 districts in the capital of Tbilisi, Dzhabardze said.

He said the Communist Party appeared to be doing well in areas where non-Georgian ethnic groups hold a majority.

The Communists appeared likely to win 20-25 per cent of the legislative seats, Dzhabardze said. The remainder would be split among smaller parties, he said.

Among the 15 Soviet republics, all but Kirgizia have declared some form of sovereignty or independence. The three Baltic republics of Lithuania, Latvia and Estonia were the first to go, but are still negotiating with Moscow.

Gamsakhurdia, interviewed over the weekend, predicted that Georgia's transition to independence would take about two years, and that the republic would maintain extensive economic relations with the Soviet Union. It also seemed likely that Georgia would rely on the Soviet Union in

national security matters, he said.

About 35 parties, most grouped by coalition, took part in Sunday's election, the first true multiparty vote in Soviet history.

Non-Communists have won election in several cities and republics elsewhere in the Soviet Union, but Sunday's balloting was the first in which formal parties, created under new Soviet laws, were listed on the ballot.

Long lines snaked from polling sites in the Georgian capital of Tbilisi as well as the surrounding countryside. About 3 million people were eligible to vote.

Voters cast two ballots, one expressing preference for a party or group of parties and another ballot choosing individual candidates by district.

Official results were not expected until the end of the week, TASS reported. Run-off elections in close races were set for Nov. 11.

Maguli Latariya cast her ballot swathed head to foot in black mourning clothes. Her 16-year-old daughter was one of 19 Georgians killed on April 19, 1989, when Soviet troops broke up a peaceful nationalist protest in Tbilisi.

The killings strengthened independence aspirations. Even the ruling Communist Party of Georgia was forced to advocate independence from Moscow as part of its political platform.

Mrs. Latariya wept as she cast her ballot, saying it was "as if my daughter's voice was telling me what to do." She said she voted for the Round Table Coalition.

## Norway's coalition quits after EC-row

OSLO (R) — Norwegian Prime Minister Jan Syse said Monday that his year-old, three-party coalition was stepping down after a dispute over how far to link the economy to the European Community.

"I will...put forward a proposal for the government's resignation," Syse told parliament.

It was not clear who would take power. Norway's 1814 constitution limits elections to one every four years, meaning no vote can be held until 1993.

Syse's centre-right government came to power in September 1989, but has been battered by a string of problems ranging from ties to the EC to a dispute over Syse's tax return and his running of his personal businesses.

The two main options are for the Labour Party, headed by former Prime Minister Gro Harlem Brundtland, to take power or for Syse's Conservative Party to try to form a one-party government.

Both parties would have to promise hefty concessions to centrist parties to get a majority. In the last election both Labour and the Conservatives lost ground to smaller parties.

NRK public radio said it might take several days before Norway had a working government.

"It's not clear what type of government will be set up," Brundtland said after the announcement. "It depends on parties other than Labour."

Syse said the three parties had cooperated well since taking office but that they had been unable to work out a common policy towards the EC.

"The government should stand united on such a case," Syse said, announcing an extraordinary cabinet meeting at 1100 GMT to formally dissolve the government.

Syse would have to inform Crown Prince Harald of the decision. Harald is acting as regent as King Olav is recovering from illness.

The current crisis flared two weeks ago when the small coalition Centre Party said it would refuse to relax Norwegian laws limiting foreign investment in property, industry, banks and other financial institutions.

Syse's Conservative Party favours full EC membership for Norway, which is a member of the European Free Trade Association (EFTA). It saw the Centre Party's position as a betrayal of Norway's promise to join a joint EC-EFTA free market.

With unqualified encouragement from Rajiv Gandhi's opposition Congress Party, Chandrasekhar is trying to gain support for toppling Singh from Janata Dal legislators far from keen on fighting an election.

Most other parties are equally reluctant to campaign so soon after last November's elections and with critical and divisive issues dominating a new poll.

"They are trying to wear away our members by saying that with a change of leadership, elections could be avoided," one senior Janata Dal official said.

He said that was why Singh, during a meeting of his cabinet colleagues Saturday, said the party would go into opposition if it lost a parliamentary vote of confidence on Nov. 7.

"V.P. felt it was necessary to assure our members that a losing vote would not mean he would automatically recommend a dissolution of parliament," the official said.

He and other sources close to Singh said, however, that the basic plan to seek elections by the end of the year remained unaltered.

"It's a question of giving them time to absorb the fact that a mid-term poll is inevitable, of not frightening them with the fact and preserving the unity of a party that is not a solid phalanx," said the official, who asked not to be identified.

"V.P. just doesn't want to appear too keen for a poll too early," he added.

Janata Dal expects to lose the vote of confidence, made necessary by the desertion of the Hindu-revivalist Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) last Tuesday following the arrest of its leader, Lal Krishna Advani.

He was detained in order to halt his march to the northern town of Ayodhya to start building a temple where a mosque now stands, an issue that threatens to split India.

At least 100,000 people have been arrested to prevent a mass surge on Ayodhya in the state of Uttar Pradesh, which is ringed by 250,000 army and paramilitary troops to prevent any attempt to start construction of the temple.

## Truce broken as 16 blacks killed in S. Africa

JOHANNESBURG (R) — Sixteen blacks were killed and more than 30 wounded in a series of gun attacks which threaten the uneasy truce between rival political factions vying for supremacy in South Africa's troubled townships.

A police spokesman said the victims were killed at random in at least three incidents Sunday night, apparently to avenge the death Saturday of a Zulu migrant worker heading for a rally of the Inkatha Freedom Party in Johannesburg.

Police have arrested a man in connection with the death of the Zulu, who was hacked and stabbed to death near a migrant workers' hostel in the township.

In one of the worst of Sunday's revenge attacks, six men were killed in a hail of bullets as they walked through the Naledi district of Soweto.

The police spokesman said it was believed the attacks may be a new phase of the bloody factional warfare between supporters of the Zulu-based Inkatha Movement and Nelson Mandela's Afri-

can National Congress (ANC). About 800 people have been killed in the Johannesburg area since mid-August in a series of gun and spear battles between the ANC, the main group fighting white rule, and the more conservative Inkatha, led by Zulu chief Mangosuthu Buthelezi.

Soweto residents said Monday the township was quiet after the night of violence, and police chief Johan Swart appealed to residents not to take the law into their own hands.

"Police will not tolerate these cowardly attacks and unnecessary bloodshed in the township," he said in a statement.

Both Inkatha and the ANC held rival displays of strength on Saturday, stretching their uneasy truce to breaking point.

The ANC accuses Inkatha, aided by white-led security forces, of fomenting the violence in a bid to shoot its way into power-sharing negotiations with reformist President F.W. de Klerk. Inkatha and the government deny the charges.

## Burma's opposition caves in to military demands

BANGKOK (R) — The last few opposition leaders not in jail after a week of arrests, raids and intimidation in Burma have given in to army demands that they abandon claims to an overwhelming mandate to rule, a Burmese source said Monday.

All but four leaders of the National League for Democracy (NLD) have been arrested in the military government's most sweeping crackdown since the party won a landslide election victory five months ago.

"The NLD is a skeleton right now. They have lost all their big

shots to jail with no sign of them being released. They are playing for time," said one diplomat.

The source, a senior member of the Burmese exile community in Bangkok, said a senior member of the NLD, Myint Myint Khin, had signed an order of the ruling State Law and Order Restoration Council (SLORC) yielding to its plans for drawing up a constitution.

Diplomats in Rangoon said they had been unable to confirm the report. NLD officials were unavailable for comment.

## Ivorian president coasting to big win; rival angry

ABIDJAN (R) — Ivory Coast's veteran leader was coasting to a big win Monday in elections denounced by his young challenger as a masquerade.

Initial results gave 85-year-old incumbent Felix Houphouët-Boigny an average 87 per cent in Sunday's vote, the first contested presidential poll in the country's history.

Opposition candidate Laurent Gbagbo accused the ruling PDCI (Democratic Party of Ivory Coast) of massive rigging.

"We are virtually on the brink of civil war in parts of Ivory Coast," Gbagbo told reporters Sunday night.

"We denounce this masquerade of an election," he said, but added he would wait for the official tally before deciding whether to call for the elections to be scrapped.

His Ivorian Popular Front (FPI) alleged wholesale fraud in several provincial cities and in the capital's two biggest working-class districts where tension was high early Monday.

The first 10 results from more than 300 administrative areas in the cocoa-growing country showed scores for Houphouët-Boigny ranging from 99.69 per cent to 69.07 per cent.

## Congress adjourns after squabbles, scandals and landmark legislation

WASHINGTON (AP) — The Congress that adjourned over the weekend stumbled, stalled and scandalised, but then passed dramatic national policy changes for the environment, military spending, foreign policy and immigration.

"A Congress of significant accomplishment," Senate majority leader George Mitchell boasted. The Senate and the House of Representatives are dominated by Democrats, though the president is a Republican.

The Congress took a raucous and ugly path to its accomplishments.

The latest two-year lawmaking convulsion was America's 101st. At the end, lawmakers were referring to it as "the one hundred and worst."

It started with Senate rejection of President George Bush's nomination of John Tower for secretary of defence, because of his reputation as a drinker and womaniser.

The House then weighed in with its own ethics scandal, which culminated in the resignations of speaker Jim Wright, the most powerful man in the House, and one of his chief deputies, Tony Coelho.

But lawmakers found time to do what they were elected to do — legislate. A new law designed to reduce chances of major oil spills was enacted. And Congress rallied behind a phase-down of U.S. support for proxy wars in Cambodia, Angola and Afghanistan — all designed to steer away from armed conflict and towards diplomacy.

Late Saturday, an immigration bill was passed that boosted the current limit of 490,000 a year on legal immigrants to 645,000 in each fiscal year through 1994, and 675,000 thereafter. The measure keeps reuniting families as its primary test, but also would open the door to foreigners with special skills, those who are wealthy and even some shunned for years for political or moral reasons.

Bush has indicated he would sign the bill, the first major re-

working of the legal immigration system since 1965.

Bush also says he will sign a \$15.5 billion foreign aid spending bill, despite his concerns about its 50 per cent cut in military aid to El Salvador.

That bill, also approved late Saturday, has something Bush badly wants — forgiveness of \$6.7 billion in past military debt Egypt owes the United States.

The Bush administration sought the debt relief as a gesture of thanks to Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak, who has taken a leading role in marshaling Arab opposition to Iraq's invasion of Kuwait.

The rest of the bill provides economic, military and development aid for U.S. friends and allies around the globe, including \$3 billion for Israel and \$2.1 billion for Egypt, the two primary aid recipients.

But major legislation including a historic revision of the nation's clean air laws, federal aid for child care, civil rights, the farm bill, housing, and anti-crime proposals languished.

Democrats succeeded in defeating Bush's proposed constitutional amendment to ban flag burning.

But the Democratic Congress couldn't override the president's veto of legislation guaranteeing workers six weeks of paid leave for childbirth or family medical emergencies, or another bill targeting job discrimination that Bush said would have led to hiring quotas.

The 101st Congress never overrode any of 16 Bush vetoes.

And the ethics scandals continued. One House member was disciplined and another quit following sex-related charges.

In the Senate, a group of lawmakers are under investigation for their ties to the head of a failed California Savings and Loan Institution.

Meanwhile, all efforts to contain the costs of insuring failed Savings and Loan Institutions

were proving fruitless. In May, with the estimates of the federal deficit beading for the stratosphere, Bush decided it was time for a budget summit with Congress.

Spring turned to summer and then summer to fall without an agreement. Mitchell compared the budget to "a whale in a bathtub," crowding out everything else.

As the leaves began to turn, pollsters noticed that the public was beginning to turn sourly. Confidence in the government's institutions plummeted and some lawmakers reported nasty receptions from voters back home.

Finally, at the end of September, the White House and congressional leaders signed a budget pact calling for a \$500-billion reduction in federal deficits over the next five years. Rank-and-file lawmakers, however, rebelled at the 12-cent gasoline tax hike, deep cuts in Medicare subsidies and dozens of other new fees or service reductions.

On Oct. 5, the day Congress had been scheduled to adjourn, the House killed the deal in a painful defeat for Bush and the Democratic leadership. Hoping to put the onus on Congress for the failure, Bush let all but essential government offices shut down for the weekend.

From the wreckage, a new package emerged, one less to Bush's liking but still acceptable. It had higher taxes on the wealthy, only a nickel in new gas taxes and a lighter hit on Medicare. The Senate gave it final congressional approval Saturday.

At the end, congressional Democrats declared victory and took umbrage when asked about Bush's campaign to paint Congress as slow and inept.

"We have persevered on a hard, unpleasant, difficult process up to the very week before election, and we're told it's disorderly," said Thomas S. Foley, who took over as House speaker from Wright. "It's courageous. It's heroic in some ways."

## COLUMN

### 40 held at Klan march in Washington

WASHINGTON (R) — A march by a group of white supremacists Ku Klux Klan members through the U.S. capital sparked off violent demonstrations and police said they had arrested over 40 protesters. Seven police officers and six demonstrators were slightly injured in clashes with opponents of the Klan and were taken to hospital for treatment, police said. Hundreds of anti-Klan demonstrators, cut off by police from about 35 marching white supremacists, armed themselves with stones and bottles and fought with police in riot gear. The Klansmen, affiliated with a North Carolina chapter of the organisation, marched under police protection for about a quarter of a mile from an area close to the Washington Monument to the Capitol. The Klan marchers, some wearing traditional white and coloured hoods, listened to anti-black and pro-Nazi speeches for about an hour before dispersing without incident. Six demonstrators were charged with assaulting police officers and other charges were filed against 34 others. Police said they arrested three anti-Klan demonstrators for violating public order laws.

Police hunt gunman after eyebrow prank

LONDON (R) — British police were hunting a gunman who shot two men while they tried to shave off his eyebrows as a joke. The shooting happened when a group of about 20 youths returned to a central London flat after a night's drinking and discovered two of the crowd were strangers, police said. One of them fell asleep and others in the group tried to shave his eyebrows. The man woke up, pulled out a gun, shot and wounded two of the would-be barbers and fled.

Gays, sympathisers March for rights

BERLIN (R) — Some 7,000 homosexuals and sympathisers marched through central Berlin to protest against a law banning relationships with males under 18 years of age. Demonstrators chanted "out of our beds, state," and "abolish it" a reference to paragraph 175 of the basic law. Police reported no incidents. Homosexuals were assaulted by rightist thugs in Berlin last summer.

Congress library gives 1st literary prize in 42 years

WASHINGTON (R) — The U.S. Library of Congress Sunday awarded James Merrill, an American poet, novelist and playwright, the first prize it has handed out since 1948, when the selection of Ezra Pound triggered a furor. Merrill, 64, won the new Rebekah Johnson Bobbitt National Prize for Poetry, the only literary award given by a U.S. government institution. His winning volume of poetry was The Inner Room, published in 1989. The \$10,000 prize recognises the most distinguished book of poetry written by an American and published in the previous two years. The award was the first by the library since it gave Pound the Bollingen Prize 42 years ago for his Pisan Cantos. Pound became notorious in the United States for wartime broadcasts over Rome Radio in support of Italian dictator Benito Mussolini. A joint panel that oversees the Library of Congress, moving to quell the public uproar that followed Pound's 1949 award, ordered the library to stop giving prizes or awards. But at the request of Librarian of Congress James Billington, the joint committee lifted the ban in 1988.

Police kill wrong man

KANSAS CITY, Missouri (AP) — A police officer who entered an apartment in search of a prowler fatally shot the man who lived there as he walked from his bedroom. Terry Barnes, 26, who was unarmed, was shot once in the head Saturday, police said. The name of the officer involved was not disclosed. He was placed on paid leave pending the results of a department investigation. Police chief Steven Bishop said the shooting was a tragedy but defended the 32-year-old officer and another officer who entered the unlocked apartment. "This is a tragic chain of events that is regrettable for Mr. Barnes' family and for this officer."

## 10 kidnapped Colombians found dead

BOGOTA (R) — Colombian police have found the bullet-riddled bodies of 10 people kidnapped in the cocaine capital of Medellin, apparently victims of a war between powerful drug cartels, police and news reports said.

Police said Sunday the bodies of two men and two women were found Friday night in an abandoned car near Medellin, the

base of Colombia's most powerful cocaine cartel, some 250 kilometres northwest of Bogota. All had bullet wounds in the head.

Local news reports said the four were among a dozen people kidnapped by gunmen from a Medellin hotel Thursday. The 12, ostensibly clothes salesmen, had recently arrived from the south-

western city of Cali and several were wanted by the police.

The Cali cocaine cartel is a rival to the Medellin cartel for lucrative cocaine markets and the two have clashed often in the past. Bodies of another six of the kidnap victims were found dumped in different parts of Medellin since Thursday, the Colombian News Agency Colprensa said.

## Moderate Basques return to power

BILBAO, Spain (R) — Spain's strongly-nationalistic Basques can expect four more years of moderately-led government after elections to the region's autonomous parliament.

Final results of Sunday's polls saw the moderate Basque Nationalist Party (PNV) emerge as clearly the strongest party with 22 of the 75 parliamentary seats, five more than it held in the last parliament.

But the radical nationalist Herri Batasuna (HB), which supports separatist guerrillas of ETA (Basque Homeland and Freedom), maintained its share of the vote and won 13 seats.

ETA has killed more than 600

people since it launched a violent campaign for Basque independence from Spain in 1968.

The PNV has governed the three Basque provinces of Vizcaya, Guipuzcoa and Alava for the last four years in coalition with the Basque Socialist Party (PSE), the regional wing of Spain's ruling Socialist Worker's Party.

Political commentators predicted that the coalition would be renewed. The Socialists slipped from 19 seats to 16, but the combination would still have an absolute majority.

Whatever government emerged, the present Lendakari

(prime minister), Jose Antonio Aranzana of the PNV, was sure to continue to head it.

Mainstream politicians, who had hoped voters would decisively reject the violence of ETA, were disappointed because Herri Batasuna exactly repeated its performance of the last elections in 1986.

Herri Batasuna has very rarely occupied its seats in the parliament in Vitoria, but party officials said they would take a regular place in the new house.

Only 60 per cent of the 1.7 million Basque voters went to the polls on a day of heavy rain and strong winds.

## Hungarian drivers win petrol fight

BUDAPEST (R) — Taxi and truck drivers won a test of wills with Hungary's first post-Communist government over drastic petrol price increases after crippling national life with a blockade of roads and borders.

The beleaguered government, facing its most serious crisis since its election by a landslide five months ago, gave in to the drivers late Sunday and reduced the controversial 65 per cent price rise.

In return, the drivers promised to open roads and permit free access to border crossings again. The blockade had caused chaos in Budapest and other large towns, triggering panic food buying.

Ministers in the centre-right government were left trying to explain why they backed away from a decision which Interior Minister Balazs Horvath described Friday as irreversible.

"We do not regard this as a final solution in the middle or long run, but taking into consideration the tense situation in the country we had to take a stand," Trade and Industry Minister Akos Peter Bod said on television. "It was never a question of prestige for the government."

Finance Minister Ferenc Rabar said: "The government did not make this concession out of weakness. For the government,

the country's peace and well-being was more important than any kind of sham prestige that could have been earned over a trivial point."

The drivers imposed the blockade last Thursday after the government raised the price of a litre of super-grade petrol from 37.5 forints (61 U.S. cents) to 62 forints (\$1) in line with Western prices but far more than the average Hungarian can afford.

With public opinion firmly on their side, the drivers vowed to man their barricades until the government halved the increase, although they relaxed the blockade Sunday as a goodwill gesture during negotiations.

## Scientists search for life on Mars

TALLAHASSEE, Florida (AP) — Scientists at a symposium about Mars say there's a strong likelihood that life existed — or still exists — on the red planet.

E. Imre Friedmann, a scientist at Florida State University who organised this weekend's international symposium on the Biological Exploration of Mars, said his work indicates that the planet probably sustained life at one time.

"You cannot really express it numerically, you cannot quantify it, but it is certainly good enough to justify serious effort to verify whether or not this is really the case," Friedmann, who discussed his work on signs of life in Antarctic rocks at the symposium, said Saturday.

"To me the exciting problem is the following: if life arose on Mars, did it progress along the same lines as on Earth? Or, in other words, is there only one way for life, only one way to heaven, or several roads to heaven?"

Three other speakers, two Soviets and an American, agreed that scientists must be patient and focus first on learning more about the environment of Mars, which is colder and drier than Earth but more like our planet than any other in the solar system.

"If we're going to find life on Mars, it's not going to be just sitting around in the dust someplace," said John D. Rummel, who directs life biology at the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) in Washington.

"We're going to have to find places on Mars that are more likely to contain life forms than you would find at random."

About two dozen scientists from the United States and the Soviet Union, Europe and Japan, Canada and Mexico attended the symposium. Rummel said he was encouraged because it seemed to be their consensus that there is "a lot of good exobiological insight that can be gained through

the further study of the planet of Mars."

Exobiology is the study of the origin, evolution and distribution of life in the universe.

"Mars is not considered by many people to be a lifeless planet," Rummel said.